

Hafa Adai!

House passes bill that removes 10-day restriction to submit marriage certificate. **PAGE 2**
Federal court dismisses multiple lawsuits filed by Zajradhara. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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Subpoena issued to get docs from Finance

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee chaired by Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) has issued a subpoena on Department of Finance acting secretary Margaret Bertha



Manglona



Sablan

acknowledged that they are requesting for huge amounts of documents, said acting

C. Torres to compel the latter to provide numerous reports or documents that the committee members have sought.

At a House session yesterday, Manglona, who

Finance secretary Torres was given a Sept. 12, 2022 deadline to provide the documents.

Manglona noted that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has been renewing the emergency declaration in regards to contain-

ment measures concerning the COVID-19.

He said the committee, as well as the Legislature, has not received any reports as to the expenditures and any funds that have been received to date, including reimbursements.

"So the committee approved a subpoena duces tecum, which was issued to the acting [Finance] secretary on

See SUBPOENA on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



Spay and Neuter Clinic looks to serve over 600 pets

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Emily Hurtt, volunteer from Guam's SNIP Clinic with Boonie Flight Project, safely performs a pre-surgical procedure at the spay and neuter clinic in As Perdido.

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

The Boonie Babies' Spay and Neuter Clinic, in partnership with the Saipan Mayor's Office, entered its third week of service since its opening

last Aug. 18.

By mid-September, it expects to serve more than 600 pets at the Saipan Mayor's Office Multifunctional Animal Shelter in As Perdido.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, field supervisor Lee

Mark Deleon Guererro and Boonie Babies' co-founder Grace Keilbach remarked that an estimated 30-37 animals were brought in daily and served.

Deleon Guererro said that so
See SPAY on Page 4

Saures disqualified, Sebaklim withdraws her candidacy

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

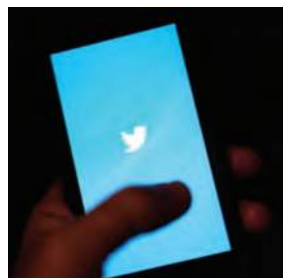
Alfredo Litulumar Saures was disqualified from run-

ning a seat for Precinct 3 in the House of Representatives under the Republican Party, while Geraldine Demapan Sebaklim withdrew her

candidacy for a seat in the Saipan Municipal Council.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiries, Common-
See SAURES on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Twitter at its best is a tool to get a message out quickly, efficiently, directly. It's also a constant risk-and-reward calculation.

PAGE 11



ASIA

North Korea on Friday said the latest fever cases detected in its border region with China were tested to be influenza, not coronavirus infections as initially feared.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

Rapper Jack Harlow took flight to open the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday.

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Local

House passes bill that removes 10-day restriction to submit marriage certificate

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives

passed yesterday a bill that seeks to remove the 10-day restriction to submit a marriage certificate by any religious

and/or non-religious entity.

At a House session, all 16 House members present voted "yes" to pass House Bill No. 22-113 that Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) introduced that day. The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

Before the bill's passage, Sablan discussed a brief history of the legislation. He disclosed that his office received calls from potential spouse beneficiaries as they were having trouble claiming

beneficiaries because their marriage certificates were not submitted to the Superior Court's clerk of court.

The lawmaker said he reached out to the Settlement Fund and spoke to a staff just to confirm if there are indeed such claims that are still pending.

"And I was told that there are some beneficiaries that are still trying to get their spouse beneficiaries. And most of them were married before 1980," he said.

Sablan said some of these marriages, the certificates from the churches were not submitted to the record of the Superior Court's clerk of court.

He said because the provision of 10 days after the ceremony deadline to submit was exhausted, these potential beneficiaries couldn't claim their beneficiaries.

Sablan said the proposed legislation pretty much strikes out the 10-day deadline to submit a marriage certificate.

The lawmaker said he is hoping that they pass the bill in both houses and is subsequently signed into law finally striking out the 10-day deadline.

He said these potential beneficiaries then can acquire themselves their marriage certificate from the church or non-religious entity and submitted to the Recorder's Office and therefore hopefully get their claims and potentially get their spouse beneficiary.

Probable cause found to try man in sexual assault of a minor case

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has found probable cause to try a man for charges of sexual assault of a minor, among other charges.

Following a preliminary hearing last Friday, August 26, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to try Manuel Mark I. Okaruru, 47, for the crimes of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, child abuse, domestic violence: assault, and disturbing the peace.

"Based upon the matters adduced at the hearing, the court finds probable cause to believe that the crimes stated were committed and the person who may have committed said offenses is Manuel Mark I. Okaruru. The defendant is therefore held to answer said charges," Camacho stated in his order.

During the hearing, the government appeared through Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds while the defendant, who appeared under the custody of the Department of Corrections, was represented by court-appointed counsel Brien

Sers Nicholas.

Previously, Camacho imposed a \$50,000 cash bail on Okaruru for charges including sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, assault and battery, and more, for allegedly sexually abusing a 12-year-old girl.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety units responded to a disturbance call at the Toha Market in San Antonio at around 9:15pm last Aug. 17. Officers met with a woman there, who asked police officers to check on her daughter as Okaruru was allegedly


hurting her.

They then followed the woman to a house near Toha, where the woman burst into tears and told the officers that Okaruru was hurting her 12-year-old daughter, all while pointing to a girl who was standing nearby. The woman then called the girl over and encouraged her to tell police what had happened, which led the child to start crying before saying that Okaruru touched her privates.

However, as the girl was talking to police, Okaruru was heard calling out to her, which

See **PROBABLE** on Page 4

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Federal court dismisses multiple lawsuits filed by Zajradhara

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The District Court for the NMI has dismissed multiple lawsuits filed by persona non grata Zaji Zajradhara due to deficiencies found in his complaints.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona

has dismissed, without prejudice, the lawsuits Zajradhara has filed against PC Bargain and Commonwealth COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program administrator Epiphania "Epi" Cabrera and CCERA employee Dana Calvo.

Without prejudice means the lawsuits can be refiled.

Although Zajradhara claims have been dismissed, Manglona granted the complainant's request to pursue his claims without paying court fees, and allowed him to amend his lawsuits if he so chooses.

In Zajradhara's lawsuit against PC Bargain, Manglona dismissed without prejudice his entire First Amended Complaint that asserts a 42 U.S.C. §1981 claim, immigration violations claim, and failure to hire claim.

Zajradhara also claimed discrimination based on race, national origin, religion, and color of skin in his lawsuit against PC Bargain in federal court and demanded an undetermined amount of damages.

The judge directed him to

file a second amended complaint correcting the deficiencies identified in his first amended complaint.

In his amended complaint, Zajradhara must restate all necessary factual allegations, all claims against every defendant he intends to sue, and all remedies he seeks if he chooses to file one.

Zajradhara was ordered to file the amended complaint no later than Sept. 25.

As for Zajradhara's complaint against the CCERA administrator and one of its employees, Manglona dismissed the complaint for its failure to state a claim on which relief can be granted, and for being frivolous.

Manglona said if Zajradhara seeks to pursue his claims, he must file a First Amended Complaint no later than Sept. 19, which must allege facts regarding the named defendants if he seeks to establish any liability on them.

He must also first exhaust his administrative remedies prior to filing with the court, Manglona said.

"Failure to do so may result in dismissal of this case," the judge said.

Zajradhara, in his complaint against Cabrera and Calvo, claimed that the CNMI government is misusing, misdirecting, and/or misappropriating federal funds intended for recipients of the Common-

wealth COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program or CCERA; is discriminating against him as evidenced by illegal actions it has taken against him in violation of § 1983; overtly retaliated against him as a minority American citizen for bringing attention to rampant visa fraud, misuse of the visa system, and illegal registering of CW-1 workers as business owners; and unjustly denied payment of his telephone and internet bills despite utilities being covered under the CCERA.

A House Resolution declaring Zajradhara a persona non-grata in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was introduced back in 2019.

Falling fuel prices result in decrease of FAC

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. that there has been a decrease in the average international fuel oil prices which will affect the Fuel Adjustment Charge. As a result, the current FAC rate will be reduced by \$0.0301 (3 cents) from \$0.37241 per kWh to \$0.34235 per kWh effective Sept. 1, 2022.

The FAC is one of the components that make up the CUC Electric kWh Rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC Base Rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This Base Rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the

FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) monthly pricing provided by Mobil equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate.

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government which provides electric power, water and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. **(PR)**

Chamber general membership meeting on Sept. 7 at Hyatt

The monthly general membership meeting for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022, from 11:30am to 1pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.

Spotlight presentations will be presented by the Northern Marianas College, State Apprenticeship Expansion Program manager Ashley Olarte, Department of Labor director Frances Torres, and the NMC Community Development In-

stitute director Maria Valentina Haberman, where they will share updates on the apprenticeship program, "Apprenticeship Incentives—What's in it for you?"

Special presentation will be presented by Office of Planning & Development deputy director Chris Concepcion who will discuss the Garapan Revitalization Project. The Garapan Revitalization Project aims to revive the tourism industry as well as

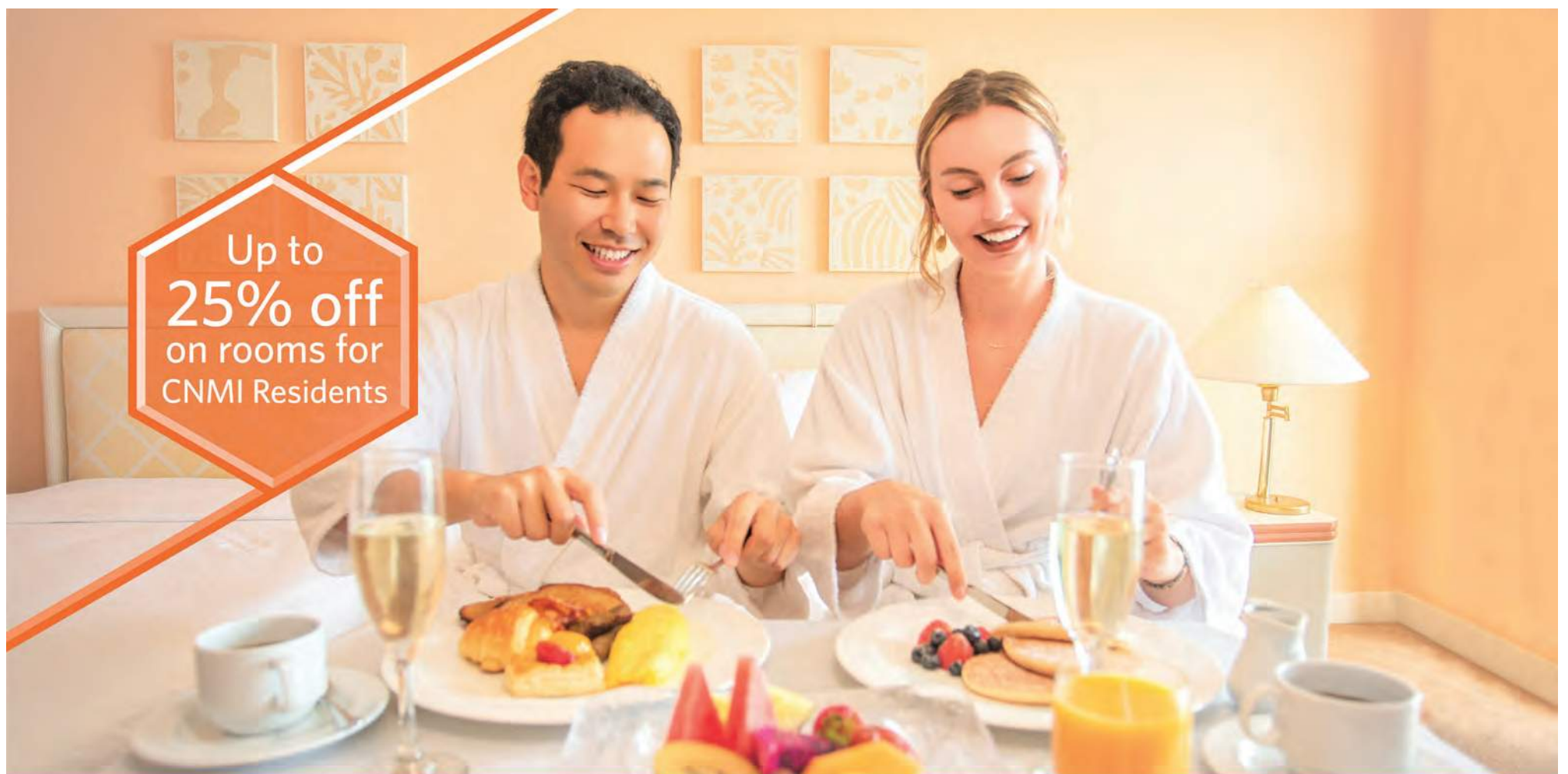
the economy.

Lunch will be served at 11:30am and the meeting will begin promptly at 12 noon. The luncheon fee is \$25/Chamber member and \$35/non-member. The Chamber is accepting reservations, to reserve or for more information, please contact the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email coordinator2@saipan-chamber.com.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit or-

ganization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, family, and community succeed as one.

For more information or to learn how to become a Chamber Member, visit online at www.saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the 4th Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Room 413). **(PR)**



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M2 Fitness' 2nd anniversary fundraiser is a resounding success

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Saipan M2 Fitness' second anniversary and fundraising event turned out to be a resounding success with hundreds of health and Zumba enthusiasts coming out in support.

The Saipan World Resort Taga Hall was packed from wall to wall with hundreds of men and women who either wanted to participate in M2 Fitness' night-long Zumba Craze party, support the M2 Fitness inaugural fundraising event, or those who just wanted to catch a glimpse of Pinoy celebrities Wowie De Guzman and Joshua Zamora who made a special appearance last Saturday night.

Either way, the event was a resounding success as it did not only spread awareness of the importance of getting fit and staying healthy to all those in participation, but it also



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Last Saturday, the Saipan World Resort Taga Hall was jam-packed with health enthusiasts who were excited to join M2 Fitness' Zumba Craze Party in celebration of M2 Fitness' second anniversary.

raised money for a good cause with the event completely selling out.

Proceeds will benefit the NMI Mu-

seum and the TSL Foundation.

Throughout the night, M2 Fitness teams and fitness coaches took

turns leading the crowd in intense Zumba choreography to get everyone's blood pumping, and their sweat dripping, leading up to the main event, Pinoy stars De Guzman and Zamora.

The crowd even got a special performance from M2 Fitness president Mary-Grace Bautista and M2 Fitness co-founder Mishael "Mita" Pelicano.

At around 7:40pm, Zamora was the first of the two celebrity Zumba instructors to take the stage. Upon stepping into the spotlight, the crowd of over 100 went into a frenzy and even forgot the main reason they were there which was to participate in the Zumba choreography.

The hundreds of men and women inched closer and closer to the stage which led Department of Public Safety officers on standby to step in and control the crowd as it began to get wild.

Following Zamora was 1990s TV star De Guzman who, again, made the crowd go wild. However, after a few moments, the crowd finally started to settle and turned into a massive dance party as they followed De Guzman's simple, yet energy intensive Zumba choreography.

Meanwhile, M2 Fitness also named their three grand prize raffle ticket winners during a brief intermission leading up to the main event.

The Top 4 winners were Tess Marquez, first; Ladyvir Canape, second; and Jovalyn Santos, third.

The other raffle winners were not announced but will be contacted by the organization.

In addition, M2 Fitness also officially launched its website during the event to help those who want to get fit, conveniently browse through the many programs and classes M2 Fitness currently offers.

SUBPOENA

From Page 1

Monday to subpoena documents," Manglona said.

He clarified that they did not subpoena Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, however, voted on and serve the subpoena duces tecum to request acting Finance secretary Torres for documents pertaining to several reports that have been promised during committee meetings, as well as fund status pertaining to some of the allocations that have yet to be transferred over to other government agencies.

"I just wanted to inform the House members this was the action taken by the committee in order to further find out how much to date have been expended and how much is owed to vendors," Manglona said.

It was Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) who offered the motion to issue the subpoena during the Ways and Means Committee meeting last Aug. 17.

Manglona said as they receive those documents, get them scan, they will then show the link to the House members, as well as anyone who's interested to see.

"There are a total of 28 items that we've requested. This is just a huge amount of documents that we're requesting. And so as they come in, I'll share that with the members," Manglona said.

The subpoena commanded acting Finance secretary Torres to provide the books, papers, documents, electronic communications and/or other things that are material to the proper presentation of 28 listed items.

The committee said failure to comply with the subpoena may subject acting Finance secretary Torres to contempt and a civil enforcement action prescribed by law.

The 28 items include American Rescue Plan Act funds status by agency/department and expense type; breakdown of Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements from Typhoons Soudelor, Mangkhut, and Yutu, and COVID-19; pandemic total cost by Fiscal Year and by expense category; CARES Act expenditures; and Travel Bucks—total number of cards issued, amount spent vs. returned, and associated fees for processing/issuance of cards.

Other items requested are total costs for attorneys' fees for House Judiciary and Governmental Operations witnesses, contracts, amounts due and payments made; total costs for attorneys' fees for Gov. Torres and Office of the Governor, contract amounts per attorney and payments made; total cost for stimulus cards (first distribution)-disbursed vs. returned due to expiration date, associated fees for processing/issuance of cards; total cost for stimulus cards (2nd distribution)-disbursed and used to date, associated fees for processing/issuance of cards; and updated actuarial report on the Settlement Fund.

The committee also listed items such as funding source for the Medicaid \$5 million local match; money owed to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. (preliminary reconciled figures or otherwise); status of ARPA money from CHCC MRI acquisition; total Business Gross Revenue Tax

collected from all stimulus packages issued through ARPA funds; and total BGRT collected from Travel Bubble through both Korea and Japan.

Other items are BOOST Program total amount allocated, list of all participating small businesses/non-profits, eligibility requirements/guidelines; funds status on all revolving accounts; for Fiscal Year 2022, total funds transferred to Public School System to date; for FY 2022, total funds transferred to the Northern Marianas College to date; and for FY 2023, schedule or list of outside-sourced funds.

The last eight items are the following:

- Outstanding vendor payments for Typhoon Yutu.

- For tax filing year 2021, child tax credit payments-disbursed vs. outstanding.

- For FY 2022, total local match disbursements for Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

- Status on single audits for FY 2020 and FY 2021.

- APRA funds status for NGO's—total funds allocated to assist NGO's, total amount disbursed, number of NGOs that received assistance and level of assistance, number of applicants, number of application approved, and number of application pending.

- Commonwealth Disaster Loan from Marianas Public Lands Trust (\$88 million loan)-funds status report and spending allocation.

- 25% pension for first quarter FY 2023—documents identifying funding source.

- Casino Gross Revenue Tax Fund status as of July 31, 2022.

She said the board did not need to hold a hearing because Saures did not meet the qualifications to be certified.

With Saures out from the race, this brings down to 13 candidates battling for six seats in the House Precinct 3. The Republican Party has five candidates, the Democratic Party has three, and five are running as independent.

With respect to Sebaklim, Igitol said Sebaklim withdrew her candidacy for medical reasons.

With Sebaklim's withdrawal, this leaves seven candidates competing for three positions in the Saipan Municipal Council.

The municipal council seat is non-partisan.

Igitol and CEC board chair Jesus I. Sablan signed Friday a resolution certifying the six gubernatorial candidates and 93 other candidates for meeting the requirement of law to be placed on the ballot for the general election.

SAURES

From Page 1

wealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol disclosed yesterday that the board disqualified Saures for failing to meet all the qualifications to run in the Nov. 8 general election.

Igitol said they did not receive an appeal from Saures about CEC's challenge to his candidacy.

SPAY

From Page 1

far, they've not experienced any challenges and it has been smooth sailing from the start due to the team following a set workflow and scheduling.

Dr. Kris Anderson performs the surgical operations for both cats and dogs, which usually lasts 5-10 minutes for male animals, with procedures on male cats sometimes lasting as short as two minutes. Procedures for female animals are longer with a range of about 15-45 minutes depending whether or not the female is pregnant. When it comes to pricing, owners pay \$37 for either spay or neuter, and the price stays the same for both cats and dogs, regardless of the animal's gender.

When it comes to cost, Saipan Mayor David Apatang contributed to help as well. "The mayor is actually paying 50%," Deleon Guerrero noted.

He said that the original asking price was supposed to be \$75, but because of the mayor's contribution, the price was lowered to a \$37 charge, making the prices more feasible for pet owners. "It's really a great help to our community," he said, adding that if such services could continue, it would greatly benefit the community, and would especially help to regulate the overpopulation of strays on the island.

"We are thankful to the mayor for giving us the space, and it's just been incredible..." Keilbach said

With a handful of Boonie Babies volunteers, the mayor's dog shelter officers, and this week, a team of visiting specialists from Guam with the Boonie Flight Project; the whole project has allowed connections to be formed with other pet services in the neighboring island of Guam, and support efforts made on each other island.

Founders of the Boonie Flight Project in Guam, Kelsey Graupner and Lauren Cabrera, also contributed their time, skill, and support of the clinic on Saipan, laboring together with volunteers. Cabrera is a resident of Saipan as well.

Speaking on behalf of the Boonie Flight Project, Stephanie Musick explained some background information before the project

"The Boonie Flight Project just helped the SNIP Clinic over on Guam do their first community clinic, and when we heard that Saipan was planning their own clinic with one of our co-founders Lauren Cabrera, we wanted to run over here as fast as possible to keep the momentum going. We've been really excited to see all of these spay and neuter initiatives here in the Micronesian Islands because it has been a service so readily needed, and we have been very fortunate and lucky to have these visiting veterinarians eager and willing to come out here and spend time on our beautiful island," said Musick.

The team just flew in from Guam on Saturday, and Musick said they have been experiencing the joys of Saipan, while working hard.

PROBABLE

From Page 2

led the victim to stop talking. Police noted that the girl "appeared scared to talk" so they removed the girl and her mother from the area.

The woman told police that Okaruru had shown up at the residence at around 6pm that day, Aug. 17, and she heard him call the child before hearing him "getting mad" at the girl. When she looked outside, she said she saw Okaruru pull out a lighter and threw it at the girl.

Meanwhile, the girl told police that Okaruru was "getting mad" at her because he believes she was plotting against him to have the police "take him away" for his drug use.

In a separate interview the following day, Aug. 18, at the Division of Youth Services, the girl stated that Okaruru hits her mother and touches her inappropriately. The victim said that Okaruru started "touching" her around February or March this year and the abuse had continued during the summer.

The victim said she constantly tells Okaruru to stop but he had threatened to hurt her on one occasion.

Colleen SN Cing 1st recipient of PAMC scholarship check

The Pacific Alliance of Municipal Councils released its first PAMC scholarship check to William M. Cing, who received the award on behalf of his daughter, Colleen SN, last Aug. 22. Cing is now attending Northern Marianas College on Saipan.

PAMC established its High Achievers Scholarship program by funding each municipality's municipal council's scholarship program from its membership fee collections, donations, and fundraising.

The 18th Tinian Municipal Council selects a recipient from the list of top ten students, excluding the Valedictorian and Salutatorian, submitted by Tin-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Alliance of Municipal Councils members, from left to right: Tinian Municipal Council chair Joseph E. Santos; Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council vice chair Antonia M. Tudela; Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ana Demapan-Castro; Tinian Municipal Council secretary Juanita M. Mendiola; Tinian Municipal Council vice chair Thomas Palacios-Mendiola; Rota Municipal Council secretary Jim M. Atalig; Rota Municipal Council vice chair William A. Taitano. Missing from the photo: Rota Municipal Council chair Jonovan H. Lizama and Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council secretary Daniel I. Aquino.

ian Jr/Sr High School who enrolls in a college of their choice and who ranks No. 3 on the list. Should the third-ranking student forfeit its award by not attending college, then a subsequent student who is enrolled

will receive the award.

Colleen Cing, who ranked ninth in the line of succession was selected as the students ranking above her chose to enlist in the armed forces.

PAMC's objective is to en-

courage new graduates to expand their horizons by seeking higher education. For more information, please contact your local Municipal Council Office to inquire about their scholarship program. **(PR)**

Marianas Agupa Forum invites Rota mayoral candidates

Due to the increasing demand amongst the voting population on Rota and those in the mainland, and to hear about

Power service interruptions on Aug. 30, Sept. 1

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be scheduled power service interruptions on Aug. 30 and Sept. 1, 2022, as CUC continues its ongoing system maintenance.

Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022

Power service interruption time: 9am-1pm

Area(s) affected: San Jose (Ghiyeghi Street and Wischira Way). **Purpose:** To replace a rotted primary power pole along Ghiyeghi Street.

Circuit: Feeder 2

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: None

Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022

Power service interruption time: 9am to 1pm

Area(s) affected: As Teo (Paluman Apo Loop, Paluman Apo Lane and Paluman Apo Place). See map.

Purpose: To replace two rotted wooden power poles along Paluman Apo Loop.

Circuit: Feeder 4

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: None

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Corporation/>). **(PR)**

their future plans if given the vote of confidence this Nov. 8, 2022 general election, Marianas Agupa Radio Talk Show is pleased to extend its invitation to all Rota mayoral candidates to appear virtually on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022 at 9am. The link to the show will be e-mailed to each of the candidates before the date.

The purpose of the forum on the show will be for our listening public and especially the voting population on Rota and elsewhere, to hear all the mayoral candidates respond to the questions regarding the pressing issues facing the people of Rota and how to address them if given the vote of confidence.

The language will be either in Chamorro or English and the order to respond to a question shall be by their number on the ballot. No. 1; No. 2 and

No.3. And so on,

■ Opening Statement. Each of the candidates shall be given up to 3 minutes for an opening statement.

■ All five candidates will be asked the following questions:

1. What are your Top 3 priorities for the first 100 days if elected mayor of Rota and how will you measure your success in each of your priorities? (3 minutes each)

2. Why do you deserve to be voted mayor of Rota and what distinguishes you from the other mayoral candidates? (3 minutes each)

3. Questions from the listening audience will be taken for each of the candidates. (One question each from the public)

4. Closing statement. All the candidates shall be given up to 3 minutes for a closing state-

ment. Note: There will be no rebuttal on this Q&A segment. All the questions will be asked and moderated by host Glenn H. Manglona.

The show starts at 9am until 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. It will also be streamed via <https://tunein.com/radio/KWAW-FM-1003-s43718/> and Marianas Agupa YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5heKROsqSVH-g5ztadBDHA> and the Marianas Agupa Facebook. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

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NOTICE OF OPEN PUBLIC AUCTIONS - SURPLUS EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is inviting all individuals, firms, and recycling centers to three open public auctions of CPA's surplus equipment and materials. The list of surplus equipment and materials is available beginning August 5, 2022 for pick-up at the CPA Office of the Executive Director, which is located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Building, 2nd floor, or via email upon request.

Item Inspection: All items will be available for inspection beginning August 15, 2022 to August 26, 2022, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, business days only. Items located on Saipan may be inspected by contacting Mr. Dennis Cruz at telephone number (670) 237-6596 or (670) 483-4516. Items located on Rota may be inspected by contacting Mr. Albert Toves at telephone number (670) 285-8109 or (670) 532-9497. Items located on Tinian may be inspected by contacting Mr. Gerald Crisostomo at telephone number (670) 433-9294.

Auction Locations, Dates, and Times: The auctions will take place at the following locations, dates and times:

Saipan: CPA Maintenance Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on September 1, 2022, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Rota: CPA Maintenance Building, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on September 6, 2022, beginning at 10:30 AM.

Tinian: CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport on September 9, 2022, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Terms and Conditions: All bidders submitting the highest itemized bid are required to pay 20% down payment on acceptance of bid. Balance shall be payable at CPA's Accounting Office located on the 2nd Floor of the Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, within five (5) business days from the date of the Public Auction. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment must be made in cash, cashier's check, credit card, or money order made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All items are sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS" and without warranty, guaranty, or representation of any kind, expressed or implied, as to the merchantability or fitness for any purpose of the property offered for sale. Items offered for sale are used and may contain defects not immediately detectable.

All sold properties must be removed from CPA property within five (5) calendar days from date of payment, at owner's expense. CPA will not be responsible for said property after said specified time. The Buyer will make all arrangements and perform all work necessary, including packing, loading, and transportation of the property. No assistance will be provided. Upon removal of the property, all sales are final.

Any claim for misdescription of the purchased item must be made prior to removal of the property. If CPA confirms that the property does not conform to the description, CPA will keep the property and refund any money paid. The liability of CPA shall not exceed the actual purchase price of the property.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids submitted for any reason set forth in this Public Auction Notice or as set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations, including bid rejection or cancellation prior to and at the Public Auction.

CPA assumes no liability for any costs incurred by bidders in their preparation of the bids. Inquiries may be directed to the CPA Comptroller, Skye Hofschneider, via email at skye.hofschneider@cnmiports.com.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Dina Ubaldo Regua) FCD-DI
Petitioner,) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 22-0274
vs.)
) SUMMONS FOR
Julian R. Bagsit Jr.) PUBLICATION
Respondent.)
)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 8186 SVRB Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 12th day of August 2022.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the) FCD CN CIVIL
Petition for the Change) ACTION NO.
of Name of:) 22-0100
)
KERIANN ELISA)
CALLAGHAN) ORDER AFTER
) HEARING
Petitioner.)
)

This matter came before the Court on a Petition for Change of Name on July 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., in Courtroom 217A, at the Superior Court, Guma' Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. Keriann Elisa Callaghan ("Petitioner") appeared pro se.

Based on the matters adduced, Petitioner did not publish and post as prescribed by order of the Court. Petitioner shall cause this Order After Hearing to be published at least once before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the CNMI. Additionally, Petitioner shall post this Order After Hearing on the Court's bulletin for a period of ten (10) days before the hearing.

This matter is continued to **September 26, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A**. The Petitioner is ordered to appear.

SO ORDERED on the date set forth above in the year 2022.

/s/ TERESA KIM-TENORIO,
Associate Judge

US Coast Guard cutter is denied port call in Solomon Islands

BANGKOK (AP)—A U.S. coast guard cutter conducting patrols as part of an international mission to prevent illegal fishing was recently unable to get clearance for a scheduled port call in Solomon Islands, an incident that comes amid growing concerns of Chinese influence on the Pacific nation.

The cutter Oliver Henry was taking part in Operation Island Chief monitoring fishing activities in the Pacific, which ended Friday, when it sought to make a scheduled stop at Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, to refuel and re-provision, the Coast Guard office in Honolulu said.

There was no response from the Solomon Islands' government for diplomatic clearance for the vessel to stop there, however, so the Oliver Henry diverted to Papua New Guinea, the Coast Guard said.

When the stop in Solomon Islands had been scheduled wasn't disclosed, but the Coast Guard said the Oliver Henry had arrived in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on Tuesday "following a patrol in parts of the Coral Sea and the Solomon Islands."

Britain's Royal Navy did not comment directly on reports that the HMS Spey, also taking part in Operation Island Chief, was also denied a port call in Solomon Islands.

"Ships' programs are under constant review, and it is routine practice for them to change," the Royal Navy said in an emailed statement.

"For reasons of operational security we do not discuss details. The Royal Navy looks



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, right, locks arms with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Honiara, Solomon Islands on May 26, 2022.

forward to visiting the Solomon Islands at a later date."

During Operation Island Chief, the U.S., Australia, Britain and New Zealand provided support through aerial and surface surveillance for Pacific island nations participating in the operation, including Solomon Islands.

China has been assertively trying to expand its presence and influence in the Pacific, and Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare alarmed some neighbors, the U.S. and others after he signed a new security pact with China.

The pact has raised fears of a Chinese naval base being established within 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) of Australia's northeast coast. A Chinese military presence in the Solomon Islands would put it not only on the doorstep of Australia and New Zealand but also in close proximity to Guam, the U.S. territory that

hosts major military bases.

Both the Solomon Islands and China have denied their pact will lead to a Chinese military foothold in the South Pacific.

Sogavare also raised eyebrows earlier in August when he skipped a memorial service marking the anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal, a key battle in World War II in which American and other allied forces wrested control of the islands from Imperial Japan.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, whose father was wounded during the Guadalcanal campaign and who attended the memorial, said Sogavare "missed an important opportunity" by failing to attend.

U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn met with Sogavare in the Solomon Islands on Wednesday but it was not clear whether she raised the issue of the Coast Guard's refused port call.

The Tennessee Republican said in a statement on her website that her visit to the Solomon Islands as well as Fiji and Papua New Guinea "was an important step in showcasing America's commitment to the region and expanding our strategic relationships."

relationships."

The Coast Guard, in the statement from Honolulu, said it respects the sovereignty of its foreign partners and looks forward to future engagement with Solomon Islands.

Coast Guard Lt. Kristin Kam

told the Stars and Stripes newspaper that the U.S. State Department had been in touch with the Solomon Islands government following the refusal of the port call and that they "expect all future clearances will be provided to U.S. ships."

IRP assists CDBG-DR program in archaeological assessment

The Office of the Governor Infrastructure and Recovery Program is working closely with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to complete archaeological surveys on U.S. Housing and Urban Development-funded home sites to assist NMHC with Environmental Reviews for their Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Homebuyer-New Construction, Rehabilitation/ Reconstruction, and Affordable Housing Rental Programs.

The first batch of 31 archaeological surveys were provided to NMHC to submit for Historic Preservation Office (HPO) review on July 13, 2022. After the submission of the first batch, the IRP Archaeology staff and NMHC staff have already completed over 50 more surveys from NMHC's priority listing and IRP is finalizing the reports for the submission of batch two.

Of the 31 homesites, IRP recommended six sites for a determination of No Historic Properties Affected and 25 sites for No Potential to Affect Historic Properties. These reports will be reviewed by the CNMI Historic Preservation Office (HPO) and 24 sites from the batch were concurred by HPO on July 24, 2022.

Upon concurrence, the next steps leading to construction breaking ground are:

1. Determining the Preliminary Title Report;
2. Completing the Appraisal; and
3. The Loan Closing

The first batch of archaeological surveys were conducted in advance of homestead development in Kagman I, Kagman II, Kagman III, Kagman III Phase IV, Dandan, and also in the villages of As Gonno, Koblerville, Kannat Tabla, Chalan Laulau, As Teo, San Vicente, Capitol Hill, Papago, and As Lito.

Under the properties belonging or assigned to approved borrowers under NMHC's Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR), the potential homesites must undergo site inspections followed by Environmental Reviews (ERs), including certification that all decisions and actions are in compliance with laws and authorities. NMHC CDBG-DR housing construction cannot commence new construction or rehabilitation/reconstruction until these required ERs are completed.

The CNMI Historic Preservation Office advised NMHC that, "The archeological services firm shall assist NMHC in compliance with all regulations in the Protection of Historic Properties as stated in 36 CFR Part 800. The qualified archeological services firm must have a 'Secretary of Interior Approved Archeologist' designation and shall assist the NMHC in compliance with the CNMI Historic Preservation Office (HPO).

The CNMI Infrastructure and Recovery Archaeological staff consists of Lead Archaeologist Jeremy Freeman, Ar-

chaeologist Scott Bierly, and Anthropologist Keona Torres. Both Freeman and Bierly meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, allowing them to carry out this project.

According to NMHC CDBG-DR staff assigned to the Program, the collaboration between NMHC and IRP to complete these assessments have been effective and responsive.

As of May 16, 2022, 272 housing loan applications have been approved under the program. Of this number, 258 approved borrowers have completed the Homeowner's Counseling Sessions; 210 have identified properties; 172 have completed site inspections; 47 have completed the required environmental assessments; 43 have secured preliminary title reports; 17 have completed appraisals on their properties; 4 closed their loans. The completion of this program would mean providing fair, affordable, safe, decent, and sanitary housing to eligible residents (low- and moderate-income individuals) three years following Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu.

For more information on the CDBG-DR Homebuyer-New Construction, Rehabilitation/Reconstruction, and Affordable Housing Rental Programs, please visit the CDBG-DR website: <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com/>.

For more information on the Office of the Governor Infrastructure and Recovery Program, you can contact us at (670)664-4775/76 or irp@irp.gov.mp. To view the IRP 2021 Annual Report, please click the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MPKhibu2ZRfI65DGeDcEoPj-mWK6AHpg/view?usp=sharing>. (PR)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
(THIS IS AD IS PAID FOR NMHC WITH HUD FUNDS)

NMHC IFB 2022-006

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

Purchase of Vehicle for the NMHC Asset Management Division

The bid package will be available on August 30, 2022, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For any inquiries regarding this bid shall be submitted to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or facsimile at (670)234-9021, on or before September 07, 2022.

Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

NMHC RFP 2022-007

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, 2:00 P.M.

Financial and Compliance Audits For Fiscal Years Ending: September 30, 2021, September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2023

The Proposal Packet is available on August 30, 2022 at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab".

Inquiries regarding this RFP shall be submitted in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net or submitted via by facsimile to (670)234-9021, no later than 10:00 A.M. local time on September 07, 2022.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on September 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/ Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman,
NMHC Board of Directors



Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501399, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail Address: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 | Fax: (670) 322-7812

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: August 17, 2022 Closing Date: August 31, 2022

POSITIONS:	EXAMINATION NO.
Investigator V (Re-Announcement)	OPA-22-003
Audit Supervisor	OPA-22-004

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan. Applicants are required to complete the OPA Employment Application form.



M2 Fitness 2nd Anniversary Fundraiser



PHOTOS BY KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The M2 Fitness 2nd Anniversary Fundraiser garnered the participation of hundreds of health and Zumba enthusiasts in a night of non-stop dancing. The highlight of the night, aside from the many raffle prizes that were handed out, was the appearance of Philippine celebrities Wowie De Guzman and Joshua Zamora who led the crowd in a Zumba routine that definitely got everyone's hearts pumping.

Opinion

Hafa Adair Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Yes! California just banned the sale of new gas cars. This is a big deal

It's hard to overstate the significance of California's move this week to end the sale of new gas-powered cars.

The California Air Resources Board's vote Thursday setting a firm 2035 deadline is huge and consequential for climate change, air quality and health. The nation's most populated and worst-polluted state is the first to adopt rules that will finally stop adding gas-fueled passenger vehicles to its roads.

The end of the internal combustion engine era, and the toll on our lungs and our planet, is finally on the horizon.

This regulation will require automakers to sell increasing percentages of zero-emission and plug-in hybrid vehicles starting with 35% of new car sales in 2026, reaching 68% in 2030 and 100% by 2035. Zero-emission vehicles account for 16.5% of California's new sales today, a rate that leads the nation but lags behind Europe and China. So these rules help reestablish California's climate leadership, putting it in step with other leading nations and making it one of the first — and the largest — vehicle markets in the world to require 100% of new sales be zero emissions.

It's a pivotal moment for a state that has been shaped for decades, often negatively, by automobiles and the health-damaging pollution they generate.

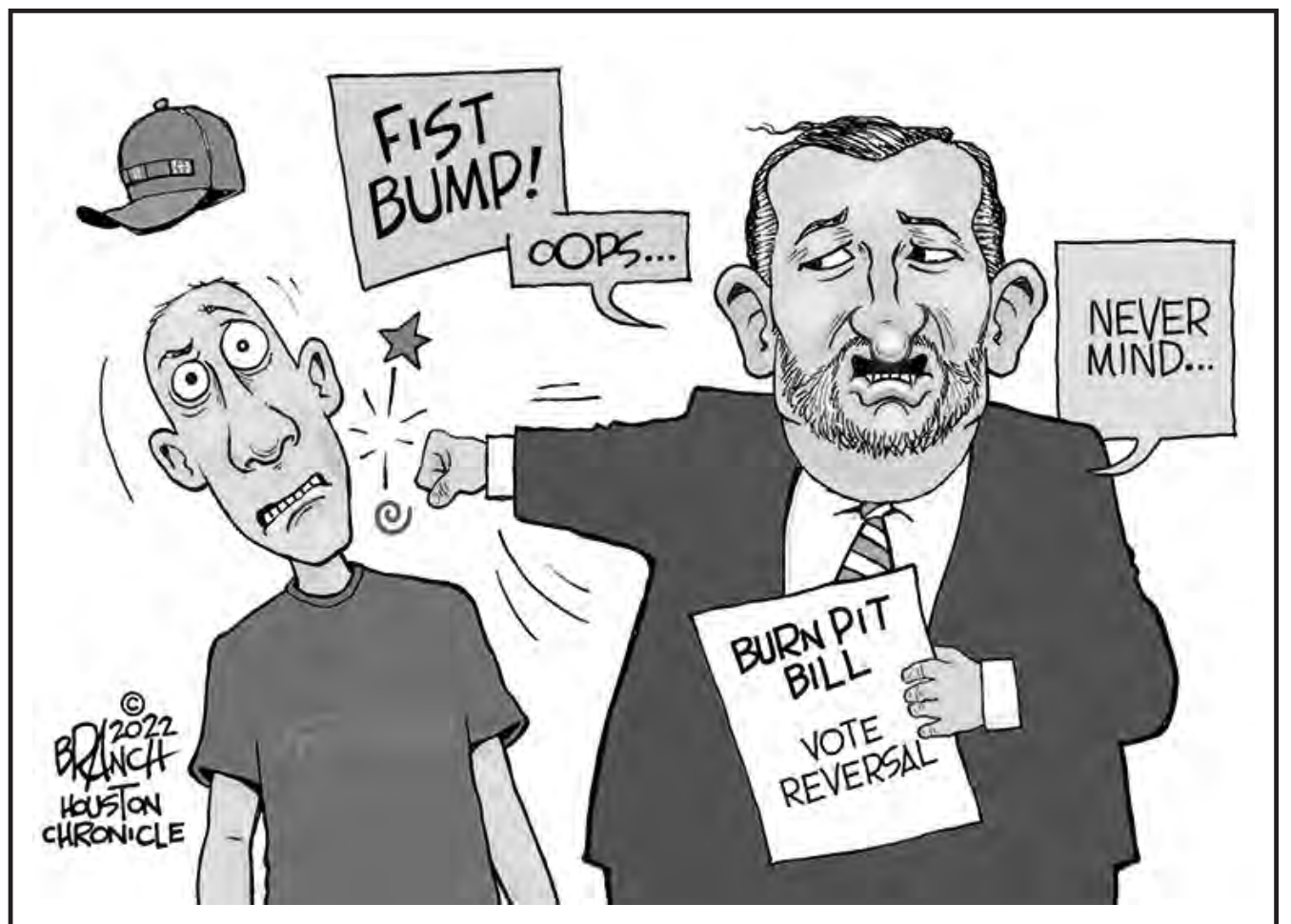
Set in motion by an executive order Gov. Gavin Newsom signed on the hood of an electric car two years ago, these standards are probably the most transformative action ever taken by the powerful regulatory agency that traces its origins back to Arie Jan Haagen-Smit's 1950s discovery that automobiles were the culprit behind Los Angeles' thick, lung-searing smog. California established the nation's first tailpipe emissions standard in 1966, and for more than 50 years regulators have worked to continually tighten them, saving innumerable lives through dramatically cleaner air.

Despite decades of progress, California still suffers the nation's worst smog, and we need to stop burning fossil fuels now to reduce the health damage and prevent the effects of climate change from getting disastrously worse. So this action is above all else a necessity.

Phasing out gas-powered cars is expected to slash planet-warming and smog-forming emissions over the next two decades, prevent more than 1,200 early deaths from air pollution and offer the greatest health benefits to people living near freeways and other transportation hubs, including low-income communities of color. The plan will bring economic benefits in the form of green jobs and savings to consumers, who will pay thousands of dollars less on operation, maintenance and repairs for zero-emission cars compared with the costs of internal combustion models.

The plan also includes requirements on minimum vehicle

See CALIFORNIA on Next Page



From Chernihiv, Ukraine, a suggestion for how ordinary Americans can oppose Putin's war

Six months after Russia invaded Ukraine, here is a different take on how to help Kyiv win the war.

On the military side, Ukraine's brave fighters have pushed the aggressor into a stalemate. But Vladimir Putin remains determined to destroy the Ukrainian state while committing hideous war crimes. The war is likely to drag on indefinitely, because Ukrainians still don't have the long-range weapons needed to win it but refuse to bow to Kremlin control.

Yet a second, less visible war is being waged on the civilian side. Cities and towns liberated from Russian control must rebuild from Russia's deliberate destruction of civilian infrastructure. The Kyiv School of Economics estimates that more than 130,000 civilian buildings — city halls, universities, schools, hospitals and clinics, houses, apartment blocks, malls, office buildings, and airports — have been targeted by Russian missiles and shells.

Mayors and city council members can't wait until the war ends to start rebuilding. They can't attract refugees back unless schools are repaired and reopened, and jobs restored. They can't base their hopes on international lenders providing the estimated \$200 billion or more the central government would need for reconstruction.

So rather than wait for top-down funds, many local leaders are looking for horizontal aid — relationships with sister cities and towns in Europe and the United States, or with private institutions that want to help Ukraine. "This kind of horizontal project builds ties between communities," said Daria Kaneliuk, the executive director of the Anti-Corruption Action Center in Kyiv, who has been working to develop such ties. "A lot of people [abroad] want to help, but they don't know how."

To explore this idea, I recently spent a day with Oleksandr Lomako, the secretary of the city council of Chernihiv, a formerly prosperous and attractive city of 300,000, around 80 miles from Kyiv and 55 miles from the Russian border.

Before the invasion, the city had a highly developed IT sector providing thousands of well-paying jobs. It had become a tourist destination for foreign and local visitors, with its refurbished parks and historic buildings. "We were very proud of this," Lomako told me in his temporary downtown office. "Then came the Feb. 24 invasion."

Two-thirds of the residents fled. Aware that the Russians were targeting city officials, Lomako sent his wife and young children to safety in Europe. But many Chernihiv citizens have now returned, bringing the population back to around 200,000.

However, according to Lomako, the Russians destroyed 80% of the city's schools, 1,000 private buildings, a stadium, the library, the post office, the largest hotel, bridges, and 60% of the

By **TRUDY RUBIN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



factories. Nearly every home in nearby villages I visited had been damaged.

The city is struggling to survive.

To be clear, there is no shortage of grit in Chernihiv. The Russians had hoped to take the city as a key way station for a ground attack on Kyiv. Their troops besieged Chernihiv on three sides for 39 days, destroying city buildings with bombs and powerful Iskander missiles.

But the city was saved by the courage and skill of the vastly outnumbered Ukrainian army forces already based in the city, along with civilian volunteers. "They knew they had a 50% chance of being killed," said Lomako, "but they were ready to die for Chernihiv." The Russians finally pulled back.

Lomako walked me around a complex of nine-story apartment buildings, where friends of his used to live, that was struck with half-ton bombs. Fifty people died, including those standing in line at a pharmacy and food store within the complex.

He also showed me the new microbrewery and restaurant that a local entrepreneur had just opened after spending months researching similar operations abroad in order to develop his own brand. "All destroyed in one moment," he said grimly.

"I could not imagine that Russia would bomb civilian infrastructure," he added, "but after the 50 died, I understood that anything is possible." What made these crimes even more incomprehensible is that Chernihiv is a Russian-speaking city, which used to have close trade relations with nearby Russia and Belarus.

Yet Lomako can't afford to focus on the \$4.2 billion he estimates it would cost to rebuild.

His main goal is to find opportunities to do basic repairs to schools, housing units, and factories that can be restored to usable conditions. "Some work must start immediately," he said, "to give people the incentive to come back."

That is why he believes that "horizontal connections could help

See UKRAINE on Next Page

Did Congress really rebuff the Supreme Court on climate rule?

Liberals are understandably delighted that Congress has managed to repudiate the outcome of at least one major case the Supreme Court decided in June. Although it seems certain that no federal legislation will be passed to try to reinstate *Roe v. Wade* and abortion rights, the Democratic congressional majority has made a clear statement on environmental law in the case of *West Virginia v. EPA*.

In the court's 6-3 decision, the conservative majority blocked climate regulation issued by the Environmental Protection Agency on the theory that Congress hadn't made it crystal clear in the 1970 Clean Air Act that the agency had authority to make the national power system more climate-friendly. Now, as part of the blockbuster Inflation Reduction Act passed earlier this month, Congress has stipulated that the Clean Air Act does in fact extend to greenhouse gases.

This legislative provision can't reinstate the Barack Obama-era EPA regulation the justices struck down. The Supreme Court's decision is binding with respect to what the Clean Air Act meant before it was amended by Congress earlier this month. And under administrative law, an agency that has been found to have acted unlawfully has to go back to the drawing board and issue a new rule under the new authorization.

The EPA will have to do that, but such regulation will now be on very firm legal footing. Even the current Supreme Court won't be able to strike it down using the same logic it did in the *West Virginia* case. Although the conservative justices are perfectly capable of cooking up a new theory to block future regulation, it would take a lot of legal creativity to do so now that Congress has spoken.

But what are we to make of this repudiation by Congress of the Supreme Court? It's a classic good news-bad news dichotomy.

The good news is that, in some roundabout way, the system of administrative law as it is currently configured worked. Most theorists of administrative law think that judicial decisions, laws and regulations taken together form an ongoing conversation among the courts, Congress and the administrative agencies. When one of the three speaks, the others have the opportunity to respond.

According to this arrangement, in the *West Virginia* case the court was telling the EPA that, without further action by Congress, it couldn't change the overall power system to advance climate interests. In effect, the justices were also telling Congress that if it disagreed, it should pass a law saying so.

In the Inflation Reduction Act, the Democratic majority replied to the court. Now the court must listen. Because Congress is supposed to have the last word on matters of legislation, the new law marks a victory for the legislative branch — the way things are supposed to be, according to the textbooks.

The bad news is that the system almost failed — and that the justices bent over backward to try and make it fail. Under the law as it existed before the *West Virginia* case, the Supreme Court should have deferred to the EPA's interpretation of the Clean Air Act. That is the principle of administrative law encompassed in the famous *Chevron* case.

Under *Chevron's* logic, when Congress delegates authority under a broad statute like the Clean Air Act, it also implicitly delegates to the agency the power to interpret ambiguous provisions of the statute. If it was unclear whether the Clean Air Act allowed the EPA to regulate greenhouse gases as it did, then the agency's determination that it possessed the authority should have controlled the outcome.

In the *West Virginia* case, however, the justices sidelined the *Chevron* principle. They endorsed for the first time a new principle called the "major questions doctrine." In essence, this says that if the courts think that the agency is making a major policy decision where the statute is ambiguous, the courts should not defer to the agency, as they would under the *Chevron* doctrine. Rather, the court should reject the regulation and insist that Congress express its will.

If you were to ask Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote the *West Virginia* opinion, about Congress's response in the Inflation Reduction Act, he would say that it was perfectly consistent with the major-questions doctrine. As he made clear in the opinion, he believes it should be up to Congress, not the agency, to decide important policy questions. That Congress has now done so is proof, he would say, that he and the other justices in the majority

By **NOAH FELDMAN**
Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of "The Broken Constitution: Lincoln, Slavery and the Refounding of America."



were right to block the regulation.

But consider that the legislation passed the Senate by a 51-50 party-line vote with the tiebreaker cast by Vice President Kamala Harris. If the bill hadn't passed, as it almost did not, then essential climate regulation would have been blocked, perhaps indefinitely.

The *Chevron* doctrine was based on the idea that agencies like the EPA possess a special expertise that enables them to make good policy judgments. The major-questions doctrine ignores that expertise on any subject the court deems to be of importance.

And if relying on expertise sounds old-fashioned, consider that the *Chevron* doctrine is also sensitive to changes in the elected administration. The president chooses the EPA administrator. The Obama and Biden EPAs enacted the regulation; the Trump EPA retracted it. Because the *Chevron* doctrine commands deference to the agency's view, it correspondingly commands deference to whoever won the presidential election.

Roberts would surely reply that Congress, not the executive branch, makes the laws. In the real world, though, especially a real world characterized by a dysfunctional Congress, legislation can be very difficult to pass. The major-questions doctrine both disrespects agency expertise and interferes with presidential action on important issues.

We're fortunate Congress managed to act this time on climate regulation. When it comes to other arrogations of judicial authority, we're not going to be so lucky.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tina vs Arnold and the no-show!

For those who didn't see the forum held on the Marianas Agupa Show, it was truly informative and eye-opening as neither candidate could "hide or avoid being exposed for what they really are," which is why the governor was a no-show. It was awesome that Mr. Glen Manglona offered the forum for the people and he even hinted at another forum before the election. But before I get to Tina and Arnold, I must agree with Mr. Manglona about the governor not having a legitimate excuse for being a no-show as he could have participated from anywhere on the planet and he didn't even offer an apology or anything — the old silent-strategy he and Arnold have been using ever since hoping voters will just forget.

But more importantly, I believe the governor is finally realizing that he is dun, as we say in my culture in our ebonics language — for my critics. The recent FBI visit to witnesses and the issuing of subpoenas has really signaled the final notes being played in the gov-

ernor's swansong, as the governor now knows for-true that the feds are going to arrest him. I'm sure he didn't want to answer questions about him facing RICO charges but, like my fellow activist Fabian said, "Ralph will show up on his radio show to try and change the narrative" with his deflecting and gaslighting show.

A brief synopsis of what transpired in the forum, as it's too much to write for this limited letter.

I want to be fair to Arnold but he made it really hard for me by doing more "story-telling than answering questions." While Tina pledged to "end the corruption, the nepotism, favoritism, and retaliations firing." Arnold did not make that same pledge, just said how bad it was and agreed with Tina. Tina even pledged that she and Leila would drive their own cars, pay their own power bills, and a list of other reforms that will end the abuse and misuse of our money — leading by example. While Arnold did a lot of agreeing with Tina, which was a signal that he really can't distinguish himself as being different or even better than Tina. The only difference Arnold tried to highlight was the "A & D experience of 60 years" while Tina and Leila actually have 40 years of experience. Tina even has a broader base of experience than Arnold having worked in our Congressional Office in Washington working with the federal agencies who continue to help the CNMI.

When it comes to leadership, Arnold was talking about "picking up the phone and calling the college, asking the departments to prioritize what needs to be done (deflecting), and even claiming ignorance about our money which Tina did concur to be-

ing true about how Ralph and his secretary of Finance keeping secrets but Tina had real plans. The only good thing Arnold said was his dissatisfaction with the many projects that he and the governor started but virtually none of them have been completed — duh! I know the Sugar Dock people are still waiting. Arnold even said, "he would often just take-it-on-the-chin (give-up) and even be silent about incomplete projects" which should have told listeners that Arnold is not a fighter for the people but will swallow his pride for politics and being able to stay in office. Arnold only promised to "give it their best" which tells me he does not have a real plan and is definitely not the one we need.

But Tina was right on point with the questions and her answers as it was clear she had done her home-work and didn't need to read from a list of things like Arnold and she had a real answer for all the questions, not stories. I won't even try to tell readers all the good things that Tina said as people will think I'm just biased and even lying. I'm encouraging all voters to go online and listen for yourself as it was in English to accommodate every voter. Tina was more than convincing that she is the better candidate with an "array of plans to improve our economy and our quality of life. See for yourself, as I don't want readers to even think I'm trying to sway their vote, as I'm confident the truth that Tina is the best candidate will speak for itself if readers will take the time to view and listen to the forum.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

UKRAINE

From Page 8

right now. There are a lot of ordinary people in the U.S. and Canada who want to help, but maybe don't know the way. We can establish contacts between schools, hospitals, and city projects."

Lomako proposes that U.S. cities cease sister-city relationships with Russian and Belarusian cities and transfer those ties to Ukraine. Chernihiv already has sister-city relationships with some small European towns and with Portland, Ore. But he envisions expanded city-to-city ties that could link up hospitals, churches, schools, universities, or city officials — for rebuilding advice and fund-raising.

Kaneliuk, the anticorruption fighter, contends such ties would "help avoid bureaucracy" and channel funds more directly to local projects. This would also aid the country's fight against corruption. She envisions "educational exchanges with destroyed [Ukrainian] schools or adopting a hospital and sending doctors."

As I left Chernihiv, Lomako asked me to contact him about any interest in horizontal relationships from within Philadelphia. Then his cell phone rang to tell him that, after five months of separation, his wife and kids were finally heading home.

CALIFORNIA

From Page 8

range, charging and battery durability, which will help protect buyers' investments. And it will have wide-reaching effects, since it is expected to be adopted by several other states that follow California's emissions standards.

This action also comes at an opportune moment for the auto industry, as many carmakers have already concluded that zero-emission vehicles are the future. Consumer adoption is also approaching a crucial tipping point. State regulators predict electric vehicles will cost about the same as gas-fueled models by 2030, if not sooner. It's notable that this transition is not being forced on an unwilling industry. Some automakers like Toyota, which only a few years ago joined with the Trump administration in challenging California's authority to regulate vehicle pollution, have recently changed their stance and say they are now on board with the state's efforts to slash greenhouse gas emissions.

While the vote to ban the sales of gas cars is a remarkable step, it is not aggressive enough to match the grave and growing climate crisis, and will not reduce vehicle pollution quickly enough for California to meet its target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. And its environmental justice provisions offering manufacturer incentives to make electric cars more affordable for lower-income Californians would be stronger if they were mandatory. Regulators should revisit and strengthen these rules in the future.

There are bound to be legal and political challenges and other bumps on the road to phase out gas-powered cars, and California has a lot of work ahead to make electric vehicles affordable and build out charging stations.

But first, let's celebrate this moment in history, when the state that pioneered car culture veered onto a new path that leaves fossil-fueled cars in the dust.

Business

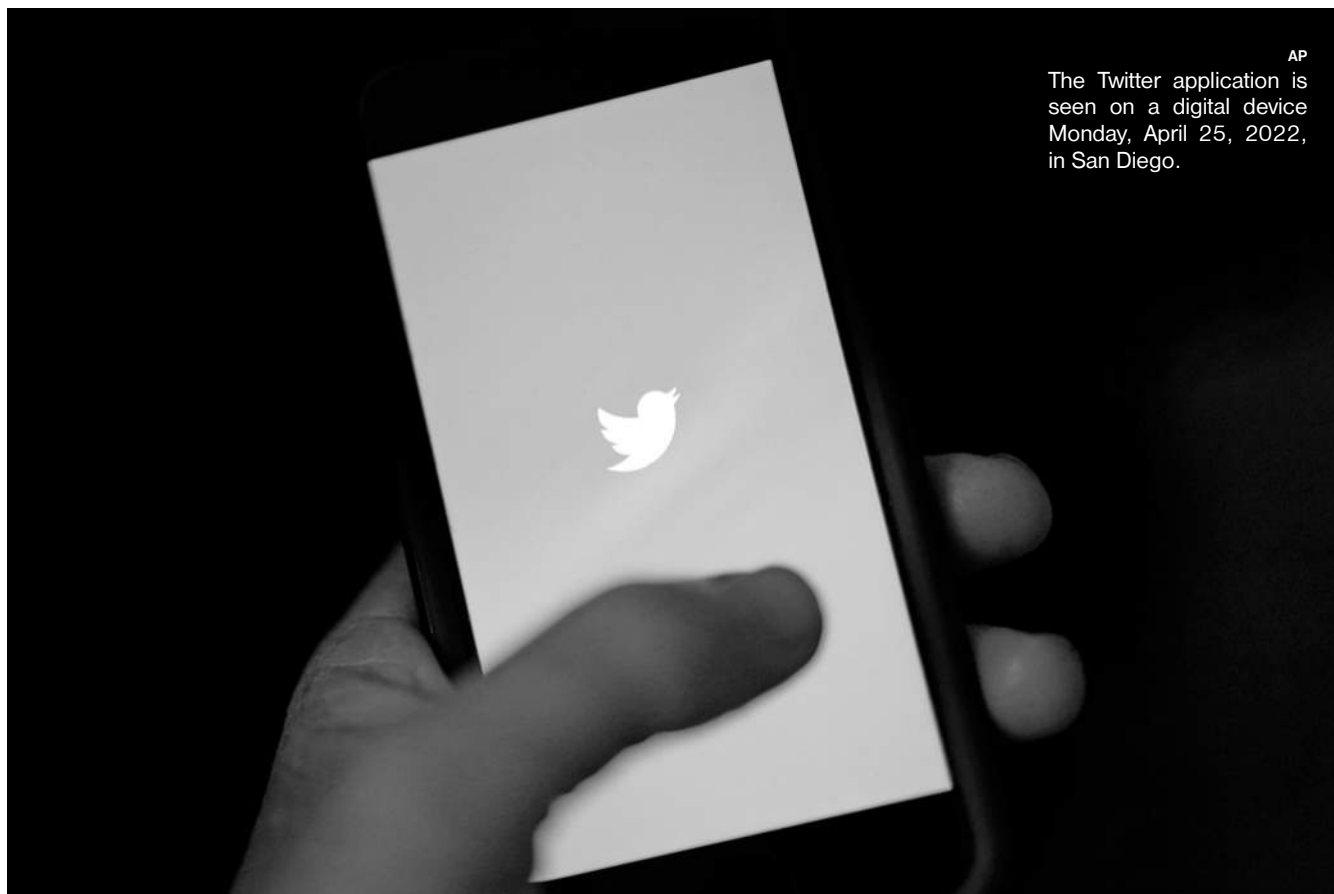
‘Tape or chewing gum:’ Twitter’s lapses echo worldwide

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—From fire departments to governments, from school districts to corporations, from local utilities to grassroots organizers around the world, Twitter at its best is a tool to get a message out quickly, efficiently, directly.

It’s also a constant risk-and-reward calculation.

A recent bombshell whistleblower report from Twitter’s former head of security alleges that the social media company has been negligently lax on cybersecurity and privacy protections for its users for years. While worrisome for anyone on Twitter, the revelations could be especially concerning for those who use it to reach constituencies, get news out about emergencies and for political dissidents and activists in the crosshairs of hackers or their own governments.

“We tend to look at these companies as large, well-resourced entities who know what they’re doing — but you realize that a lot of their actions are ad hoc and reactive, driven by crises,” said Prateek Waghre, policy director at the



AP
The Twitter application is seen on a digital device Monday, April 25, 2022, in San Diego.

Internet Freedom Foundation, a digital rights nonprofit in India. “Essentially, they’re often held together by cello tape or chewing gum.”

Peiter “Mudge” Zatkó, who served as Twitter’s security chief until he was fired early this year, filed the complaints last month with federal U.S. authorities, alleging that the company misled regulators about its poor cybersecurity defenses and its negligence in attempting to root out fake accounts that spread disinformation. Among Zatkó’s most serious accusations is that Twitter violated the terms of a 2011 FTC settlement by falsely claiming that it had put stronger measures in place to protect the security and privacy of its users.

Waghre said the allegations

in the complaint about India—that Twitter knowingly allowed the Indian government to place its agents on the company payroll where they had “direct unsupervised access to the company’s systems and user data”—were particularly worrisome. He also pointed to an incident earlier this month where a former Twitter employee was found guilty of passing along sensitive user data to royal family members in Saudi Arabia in exchange for bribes.

The consequences of privacy and security lapses can range from inconvenience and embarrassment — such

as when an Indiana State Police account was hacked and tweeted “poo-poo head” earlier this year — to much worse. In October 2021, a Saudi humanitarian aid worker was sentenced to 20 years in prison because of an anonymous, satirical Twitter account that the kingdom says he ran. It’s possible that the case is linked with the men accused of spying on behalf of the kingdom while working at Twitter.

As an advocate for dissidents and others detained in Saudi Arabia, Bethany Al-Haidari has been concerned for years about Twitter’s user privacy safeguards. The new

whistleblower allegations make her all the more worried.

“Given what we know about how social media is used around the world, that is incredibly problematic,” said Al-Haidari, who works for The Freedom Initiative, a U.S.-based human rights group. The possibility of hackers or governments exploiting the alleged cybersecurity lapses at Twitter to get users’ identities, private messages or other personal information “is quite disturbing to me,” she said.

Chinese-Australian artist and activist Badiucuo, who regularly publishes art that criticizes the Chinese Communist Party, expressed concern about the whistleblower’s allegations, noting that many users provide their phone numbers and emails to Twitter.

“Once that personal information is leaked, it could be used to trace your identity,” he said. Badiucuo said he regularly receives death threats and propaganda from what appears to be bot or spam accounts.

But the artist plans to keep using Twitter, saying it’s probably the best option Chinese-speaking activists and artists have for a “shelter for free speech.”

Twitter says the whistleblower claims present a “false narrative” about the company and its privacy and data security practices, and that the claims lack context. “Security and privacy have long been company-wide priorities at Twitter and will continue to be,” the company said in a statement.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

2 Air France pilots suspended after fighting in cockpit

PARIS (AP)—Fisticuffs in the cockpit, leaving a leaky engine running while cruising over Africa—Air France pilots are under scrutiny after recent incidents that have prompted French investigators to call for tougher safety protocols. Two Air France pilots were suspended after physically fighting in the cockpit on a Geneva-Paris flight in June, an Air France official said Sunday. The flight continued and landed safely, and the dispute didn’t affect the rest of the flight, the official said, stressing the airline’s commitment to safety. Switzerland’s La Tribune reported that the pilot and co-pilot had a dispute shortly after takeoff, and grabbed each other by their collars after one apparently hit the other. Cabin crew intervened and one crew member spent the flight in the cockpit with the pilots, the report said. News of the fight emerged after France’s air investigation agency, BEA, issued a report Wednesday saying that some Air France pilots lack rigor in respecting procedures during safety incidents.

Low fuel inventories cause special concern in US Northeast

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Diesel and heating oil supplies in the Northeast are more than 50% below the recent average, raising concerns that an extreme weather event could cause supply disruptions, federal officials said. Fuel supplies are lower than normal across the country for a variety of reasons, including the war in Ukraine. But it’s the worst in the Northeast. Diesel fuel and heating oil, which comprise the distillate category, are 63% below the five-year average in New England and 58% below the same average from Maryland to New York, according to a survey by the Department of Energy. Gasoline inventories are not as bad, but are still at their lowest levels in nearly a decade along the entire East Coast, the agency said. The Northeast is heavily dependent on heating oil to keep homes warm in the winter, while other regions rely more on natural gas and electricity. Also, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has projected an active hurricane season, and a powerful weather event could cause disruptions, since most fuel consumed from the Middle Atlantic states to Maine comes from Gulf Coast refineries, energy officials say.

Mexico’s president revived dangerous form of coal mining

MEXICO CITY (AP)—As hopes faded of rescuing 10 men trapped in a flooded Mexican coal mine, evidence mounted that the current administration’s populist policies have driven the revival of the dangerous, primitive mines that continue claiming lives.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador enacted a plan two years ago to revive coal-fired power plants in northern Mexico and give preference to buying coal from the smallest mines. The purchases were part of the president’s policies to give more income to the poorest Mexicans.

In doing so, the administration resuscitated a form of coal mining so dangerous that lawmakers in both houses of Mexico’s Congress had tried to ban it a decade ago.

Experts say that mines so narrow and primitive that only

one miner at a time can be lowered into a narrow shaft — and only one bucket of coal extracted — are inherently unsafe. At some pits, known as “pocitos,” or “little wells,” air is pumped in and water pumped out through plastic hoses. Some don’t even have that. There are usually no safety exits or auxiliary shafts.

Fifteen men were working inside the Pinabete mine in Sabinas, Coahuila, about 70 miles (115 kilometers) southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas, on Aug. 3. A wall of water from an abandoned mine next door—and possibly wastewater pumped in from a nearby town—filled the single shaft about 40 meters (yards) deep. It blew out so many wooden supports that they have formed floating barriers to rescue crews.

Five workers managed to escape as the mine flooded, but

there has been no contact with the rest.

Promoting coal is part of López Obrador’s effort to shore up the state-owned power utility, the Federal Electricity Commission, headed by old-guard politician Manuel Bartlett. Not only was the policy questioned by environmentalists; many also said it endangered miners.

“Manuel Bartlett’s brilliant idea of buying more coal from the smallest producers, and less from big producers, gave rise to a black market that wound up in the exploitation of mines that lack the safeguards needed to protect the lives of the workers,” Miguel Riquelme, the governor of Coahuila state and member of the opposition Institutional Revolutionary Party, said after the accident.

The government utility had defended its decision to buy

about two-thirds of coal for power generation from small mines.

“We had to have the mindset of favoring the smallest (producers) because we had to make their economic conditions more equal,” Miguel Alejandro López, the subdirector of purchasing for the company, said in July, describing the orders he got under López Obrador. “Because as he (the president) has said, one of this country’s main failings is inequality.”

López said small mine owners were required to submit proof they complied with labor laws, which in Mexico govern mine safety.

But even the president acknowledged that the Pinabete mine had not complied with the few existing safety and labor standards.

Accidents at small coal mines have been depressingly frequent.

Nation

Liz Cheney in 2024? Deep skepticism emerges in key states

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—As the sun set in Wyoming, U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney described her blowout loss as the beginning of a more consequential step in her political career. She summoned Abraham Lincoln, who lost elections for the House and Senate and still went on to become one of the nation's most accomplished presidents.

But in the days since, would-be supporters in key states have openly expressed skepticism about a Cheney presidential run, even one solely designed to block Donald Trump's return to the White House.

In fact, Republican voters and local officials in three of the states that matter most in presidential politics — Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina — believe the soon-to-be-unemployed congresswoman has little path to relevancy in a 2024 presidential primary, never mind a path to victory. Some sympathizers fear she would actually help Trump if she runs.

Such is the colossal political challenge ahead for Cheney, a Republican seeking to transform a 37-percentage-point home-state loss into a national campaign to destroy Trump's White House ambitions. There is no precedent for what she hopes to accomplish.

"The Republican Party is a lot more diverse than it's given credit for, and there will be some number of people who find her, and her message, appealing, but that is far from saying that there would be a warm reception, or a large reception," said Micah Caskey, a Republican state representative in South Carolina. "I don't see a Liz Cheney candidacy as being viable."



Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., speaks Aug. 16, 2022, at a primary Election Day gathering in Jackson, Wyo. Cheney lost to Republican opponent Harriet Hageman in the primary.

In the hours after she conceded her Wyoming congressional primary to a little-known Trump acolyte, Cheney's team transferred leftover campaign funds into a new entity she named "The Great Task," borrowing a phrase from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. She vowed to devote the weeks before the November midterms to defeating Trump loyalists who continue to promote the lie that the 2020 election was stolen.

"I will be doing whatever it takes to keep Donald Trump out of the Oval Office," Cheney told NBC's "Today" show. She acknowledged she is thinking about a 2024 presidential run. "I'll make a deci-

sion in the coming months."

Cheney, the 56-year-old daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, has not ruled out running in 2024 as a Republican or an independent. But those close to her now believe an independent run would likely attract more support from Democrats than Republicans, which would undermine her goals. Therefore, if she runs, it would almost certainly be as a Republican.

Her team believes that Cheney would enter the 2024 Republican contest as the undisputed leader of the anti-Trump lane, which could include the likes of Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., and former New Jersey Gov. Chris

Christie. The Cheney name is universally known, they note, and she enjoys a national fundraising base that brought in more than \$15 million for her failed reelection bid. She would also have the support of her father and maintains close ties to former President George W. Bush, who hosted a fundraiser for Cheney last fall.

She will continue to play a leading role in the House investigation into the Jan. 6 insurrection, which is set to host another round of hearings in September.

Despite those factors, there has been little sign of enthusiasm for Cheney in the states most likely to decide the next GOP presidential nomination.

Voters were openly cel-

ebrating her loss at the Iowa State Fair, a must-stop for presidents and presidential contenders ever since the state began hosting the nation's opening presidential primary

contest a half-century ago.

"It's celebration day at the Iowa Republican Party. Liz Cheney is outta here!" crowed Debra Wyna, a Des Moines-area GOP volunteer and 57-year-old retired salon owner. "Liz Cheney is a swamp monster."

Other voters who stopped by the GOP booth were less pointed than Wyna but no less dismissive of Cheney's political ambitions.

"I'm never going to vote for her because I believe she betrayed the Republican Party by voting to impeach President Trump," said Janet Diers, a 67-year-old retired special education teacher from rural western Iowa.

Gentry Collins, a veteran Iowa and national Republican operative who opposes Trump, said he has "great respect" for Cheney, but he doesn't see how she wages a viable campaign for president.

"Where do the votes come from? Maybe she aggregates the anti-Trump vote, but that's not enough," said Collins, a former political director for the Republican National Committee. "She's my kind of Republican, but I don't see an opening."

Detroit police: Suspect arrested in fatal 'random' shootings

DETROIT (AP)—A person waiting for the bus and another walking their dog were among four people who were shot, three fatally, by a man who appeared to fire randomly over about 2 1/2 hours in Detroit, police said.

Police arrested a suspect Sunday night after an hours-long manhunt involving multiple federal agencies. Police Chief James White said tips led officers to the suspect, but he did not immediately release more information about the suspect or arrest.

White earlier said investigators traced all four early Sunday shootings to one firearm but believed them to be random because there was no apparent connection among the victims.

He said police discovered a woman in her 40s who had been shot multiple times around 4:45 a.m. Sunday. While officers were investigating that fatal shooting, a witness reported a 28-year-old man had been shot multiple times nearby, White said.

A third victim, a woman in her 40s, was found in the

area around 6:50 a.m. She died after being shot multiple times, police said.

Around 7:10 a.m., an elderly man reported he saw a man peering into vehicles. When the elderly man told the person to get away from the cars, the gunman fired at the elderly man, who was shot once and survived, police said.

White and Mayor Mike Duggan had urged residents Sunday to be alert and call police with any information.

"The suspect already shot four people. Please call immediately. ... Someone out there knows who this is," Duggan said.

Duggan later credited "critical information from the community" and multiple law enforcement agencies with helping Detroit police take the suspect into custody.

"As we mourn our three neighbors who were killed, we should take the time to appreciate all the men and women in law enforcement whose work today made sure no other families will suffer at the hands of this shooter," Duggan tweeted.

NASA moon rocket on track for launch despite lightning hits

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA's new moon rocket remained on track to blast off on a crucial test flight Monday, despite a series of lightning strikes at the launch pad.

The 322-foot (98-meter) Space Launch System rocket is the most powerful ever built by NASA. It's poised to send an empty crew capsule into lunar orbit, a half-century after NASA's Apollo program, which landed 12 astronauts on the moon.

Astronauts could return to the moon in a few years, if this six-week test flight goes well. NASA officials caution, however, that the risks are high and the flight could be cut short.

In lieu of astronauts, three test dummies are strapped into

the Orion capsule to measure vibration, acceleration and radiation, one of the biggest hazards to humans in deep space. The capsule alone has more than 1,000 sensors.

Officials said Sunday that neither the rocket nor capsule suffered any damage during Saturday's thunderstorm; ground equipment also was unaffected. Five strikes were confirmed, hitting the 600-foot (183-meter) lightning-protection towers surrounding the rocket at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The strikes weren't strong enough to warrant major retesting.

"Clearly, the system worked as designed," said Jeff Spaulding, NASA's senior test director.

More storms were expected. Although forecasters gave 80% odds of acceptable weather Monday morning, conditions were expected to deteriorate during the two-hour launch window.

On the technical side, Spaulding said the team did its best over the past several months to eliminate any lingering fuel leaks. A pair of countdown tests earlier this year prompted repairs to leaking valves and other faulty equipment; engineers won't know if all the fixes are good until just a few hours before the planned liftoff. If Monday doesn't pan out, the next launch attempt would be Friday.

After so many years of de-

lays and setbacks, the launch team was thrilled to finally be so close to the inaugural flight of the Artemis moon-exploration program, named after Apollo's twin sister in Greek mythology.

"We're within 24 hours of launch right now, which is pretty amazing for where we've been on this journey," Spaulding told reporters.

The follow-on Artemis flight, as early as 2024, would see four astronauts flying around the moon. A landing could follow in 2025. NASA is targeting the moon's unexplored south pole, where permanently shadowed craters are believed to hold ice that could be used by future crews.

Asia

N. Korea: New fever cases were flu, not COVID-19



AP

An employee of Pyongyang Dental Hygiene Products Factory disinfects the floor of a dining room as the state increased measures to stop the spread of illness in Pyongyang, North Korea on May 16, 2022.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Friday said the latest fever cases detected in its border region with China were tested to be influenza, not coronavirus infections as initially feared.

The report by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency came a day after the North said it locked down unspecified areas in Ryanggang province after four people had fevers that were suspected to be COVID-19.

North Korea maintains it has had no confirmed coronavirus cases since Aug. 10, when leader Kim Jong Un declared a widely disputed victory over the virus, just three months after the country acknowledged an omicron outbreak.

KCNA said diagnostic tests of samples, the nature of the

symptoms, and information gained from contract tracing led health workers to conclude that the fevers were caused by influenza. The patients have since returned to normal temperatures, it said.

North Korean officials lifted the lockdown but urged residents to maintain vigilance by continuing to wear masks and reporting to health authorities immediately if they experience fever symptoms.

While Kim claimed that the country's success against the virus would be recognized as a global health miracle, experts believe North Korea has manipulated disclosures on its outbreak to help him maintain absolute control. The victory statement signals Kim's aim to move to other priorities, including a possible nuclear test, experts say.

Pakistan flooding deaths pass 1,000 in 'climate catastrophe'

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Deaths from widespread flooding in Pakistan topped 1,000 since mid-June, officials said Sunday, as the country's climate minister called the deadly monsoon season "a serious climate catastrophe."

Flash flooding from the heavy rains has washed away villages and crops as soldiers and rescue workers evacuated stranded residents to the safety of relief camps and provided food to thousands of displaced Pakistanis.

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority reported the death toll since the monsoon season began earlier than normal this year — in mid-June — reached 1,061 people after new fatalities were reported

across different provinces.

Sherry Rehman, a Pakistani senator and the country's top climate official, said in a video posted on Twitter that Pakistan is experiencing a "serious climate catastrophe, one of the hardest in the decade."

"We are at the moment at the ground zero of the front line of extreme weather events, in an unrelenting cascade of heatwaves, forest fires, flash floods, multiple glacial lake outbursts, flood events and now the monster monsoon of the decade is wreaking non-stop havoc throughout the country," she said. The on-camera statement was retweeted by the country's ambassador to the European Union.

Flooding from the Swat River overnight affected north-

After admitting to a coronavirus outbreak in May, North Korea reported about 4.8 million "fever cases" across its mostly unvaccinated population of 26 million but only identified a fraction of them as COVID-19. Experts say the country's official death toll of 74 is abnormally small, considering the country's lack of public health tools.

North Korea dubiously insists that rival South Korea was responsible for its COVID-19 outbreak and has warned of "deadly" retaliation, saying that the virus was transported by anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets and other materials flown across the border by balloons launched by South Korean civilian activists. South Korea has dismissed such claims as unscientific and "ridiculous."

western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where tens of thousands of people — especially in the Charsadda and Nowshera districts — have been evacuated from their homes to relief camps set up in government buildings. Many have also taken shelter on roadsides, said Kamran Bangash, a spokesperson for the provincial government.

Bangash said some 180,000 people have been evacuated from Charsadda and 150,000 from Nowshera district villages.

Khaista Rehman, 55, no relation to the climate minister, took shelter with his wife and three children on the side of the Islamabad-Peshawar highway after his home in Charsadda was submerged overnight.

World

Rival Chechen fighters take war to Ukraine battlefields

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Kneeling in a patch of yellow wildflowers, a Chechen soldier carefully attaches an explosive device to the bottom of a small drone. Seconds later, it is released. It explodes next to two old storefront mannequins set up 200 meters (yards) away, one with a Russian-style military hat on its head.

After this and other training outside the Ukrainian capital, the Chechen soldiers, in assorted camouflage footwear and protective gear, will be heading to the front lines in Ukraine, vowing to continue the fight against Russia that raged for years in their North Caucasus homeland.

Fighters from Chechnya, the war-scarred republic in southern Russia, are participating on both sides of the conflict in Ukraine.

Pro-Kyiv volunteers are loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev, the late Chechen leader who headed the republic's drive for independence from Russia. They form the "Dudayev Battalion" and are the sworn enemies of Chechen forces who back Russian President Vladimir Putin and joined Russia in the months-long siege of Ukraine's key port of Mariupol and other flash-

points in eastern and southern Ukraine.

One group of new Chechen arrivals, many of whom live in Western Europe, was being trained at a makeshift firing range outside Kyiv before heading east. At a training session Saturday, the new recruits — all Muslim men — shouted "Allahu akbar!" ("God is great!"), holding their rifles in the air before being handed military ID cards that are issued to volunteers.

Ukrainian officials say the Chechen battalion currently numbers several hundred who fight alongside the country's military but are not formally under the national command.

Instructors teach the new battalion members combat basics, including how to use a weapon, assume a firing position and how to work in teams. Trainers include veterans of wars in Chechnya that ended in 2009, some joining up in Ukraine after the fighting against Russia-backed separatists started in Ukraine in 2014.

Tor, a volunteer who asked only to be identified by his battlefield nickname, said he sees no difference between the two conflicts.

"People have to understand we don't have a choice," he

said speaking in English and with his face covered. "If they (Russian forces) win this war, they will continue. They never stop. I don't know. The Baltic countries will be next, or Georgia or Kazakhstan. Putin openly, absolutely, says he wants to rebuild the Soviet empire."

Russia launched two wars to prevent Chechnya, a mostly Muslim province, from gaining independence after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. The first conflict erupted in 1994.

The second Chechen war began in 1999 and culminated in a siege by Russian troops of Grozny, the Chechen capital, which was devastated by heavy Russian bombardment. After years of battling an insurgency, Russian officials declared the conflict in Chechnya over in 2017.

Muslim Madiev, a veteran fighter of the Chechen conflicts, identified himself as an adviser to the volunteer battalion in Ukraine. He joined the soldiers Saturday in shooting practice, taking aim at a plastic bottle held up on a stick. Bullet casings flew from his automatic rifle onto a field already littered with bullets, shotgun cartridges and cardboard target sheets.

WORLD BRIEFS

Deadly clashes shake Libya's capital, killing 23 people

CAIRO (AP)—Deadly clashes broke out Saturday in Libya's capital between militias backed by its two rival administrations, portending a return to violence amid a long political stalemate. At least 23 people were killed and 140 more wounded, the Health Ministry said. It added that 64 families were evacuated from areas around the fighting. The escalation threatens to shatter the relative calm Libya has enjoyed for most of the past two years. The oil-rich nation plunged into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. Among the fatalities was Mustafa Baraka, a comedian known for his social media videos mocking militias and corruption. Baraka died after he was shot in his chest, said Malek Mersat, an emergency services spokesman.

Dutch police: 6 dead after truck hit community barbecue

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The death toll from an accident when a truck drove off a dike and slammed into a community barbecue in a village south of Rotterdam rose to six Sunday and police said a further seven people are in hospital, including one in critical condition. Three men and three women were killed, ranging in age from 28 to 75, police said. Police spokeswoman Mirjam Boers said the truck driver, a 46-year-old

Spanish man, is suspected of causing the accident that happened early Saturday evening in the village of Nieuw-Beijerland. His identity was not released, in line with Dutch privacy laws. The large truck the man was driving left a small rural road and careered down the bank of the dike and plowed into the village gathering. Boers said the driver was not under the influence of alcohol at the time of the crash. "We are investigating what could have happened," Boers said.

Hundreds of migrants reach Italian shores over weekend

ROME (AP)—Italian authorities scrambled on Sunday to relieve overcrowding in shelters after scores of boats carrying a total of about 1,000 migrants reached Italy's southern shores and two of its tiny islands over the weekend. Nearly 50 boats arrived between Friday night and Saturday on Lampedusa island off Sicily, according to state radio and other Italian media. Other boats carrying migrants reached Pantelleria, another tiny island favored by vacationers. Hundreds of migrants stepped ashore from the virtual flotilla of smugglers' vessels on those islands. Several of the vessels launched by migrant smugglers held as few as eight passengers. But others had around 100 passengers aboard, many of them from Tunisia, according to the reports. Other boats reached the shores of the Italian mainland on Saturday, either unaided or assisted by Italian coast guard vessels.

Overdrive

The legendary Acura Integra is back but faces stiff competition

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

YUBA, Michigan—Nostalgia is a powerful thing. I want to see Michael Jordan go one-on-one with Steph Curry. I want to see Pete Sampras vs. Novak Djokovic on Wimbledon's Centre Court. I want Mario Andretti vs. Josef Newgarden.

I want to drive the Acura Integra vs. the Cadillac CT4.

Wait, what? I can? After a long walk in the woods, Honda's luxury brand has returned to its sporty roots and brought back its famed entry-level hellion for the compact luxury segment. But a lot has happened since 1989 when Integra debuted. Like my sports legends of yore, could Integra ever live up to the expectations? What the heck, let's give it a shot.

On adaptive cruise control talking with my wife via the Android Auto app (both alien, sci-fi technology to an '89 Integra) heading north on U.S. 31 outside Yuba (just north of Acme somewhere in northern Michigan) a twisty country road loomed. I hung up the phone and hit the brakes hard — negating ACC — then downshifted the manual from 6th to 5th to 3rd.

BRAP! BRAP! BRAP! Each downshift was perfectly executed thanks to electronic rev matching (more tech alien to the '89 generation). I rotated Integra beautifully, then smoothly put down power courtesy of the limited slip differential (no, they never heard

of that in '89 either). Handling, power, tech. The Integra is reborn, yes?

"No, it's just not the same," mused my friend Sean, who owned an '89 Integra.

She remembers her Integra romance like it was yesterday. She loved the stylish pop-up headlights, airy greenhouse and raw, lightweight, 2,400-pound chassis that was easy to toss around.

The 2023 Integra is based on the Honda Civic (just like the original) but 1989 was a different Integra/Civic era. Sean's Integra had an eager 1.6-liter fuel-injected mill that was followed by an 8,000-rpm VTEC engine in 1992 that won customer raves. I have an evolution of that engine in my manual 2006 Civic Si, and it's a blast to row at 6,000 rpm — the variable cam screaming for more power all the way to redline. Packaged in the sexier Integra, it must have felt like a little bit of Honda's Formula One racer DNA had been injected under the hood.

By contrast, the new 2023 Civic Si boasts a turbocharged 1.5-liter engine that has better low-end torque compared to its ancestor — but lacks its personality. The new Integra gets the Civic Si engine standard (not the Civic's base 152-horse mill) putting out the same 200 horses as the Civic mated to a manual transmission. Just like the original Integra, but ...

Sean immediately came to terms with the shifter (one of the best in the business this side of a Porsche Cayman) and its sporty rev-matching,



but she missed the original Integra's playfulness.

The new Integra is 700 pounds heavier, after all, and accessorized to the gunwales with sound-deadening materials, digital gauges, wireless smartphone apps, and standard four-doors compared to her ol' Integra coupe.

It also conforms to the 21st century stylebook, which means a shallow greenhouse — the better to show off the big 18-inch satin wheels and sculpted side-and-rocker panel stampings. This new Integra has a gym-toned bod compared to the boxy builds of the '80s and '90s.

No matter. To Sean, the Integra had lost its original, carefree character. Nostalgia is a powerful thing. Thus the risk of bringing back a legend.

I know the feeling, having recently driven my first love — the 1984 Volkswagen Rabbit (aka Golf) GTI. Like the Integra of its day, my ol' GTI was light, airy, technically unsophisticated, yet alive with a bratty exhaust note.

How far we have come in 40 years. And that's a key marketing challenge for the 2023 Integra.

Today, we have entry-level luxury hellions unheard of in the '90s. There's the aforementioned whip-quick Cadillac CT4. And Mercedes CLA. And BMW 2-series. And Audi A4.

That's a tough competitive brand set, and Acura competes with value, value, value. Load my sporty A-Spec-trimmed tester with all the goodies — head-up display, red-leather-Alcantara seats, 18-inch wheels — and it clocks in at \$37,395, a whopping \$7,200 grand south of a comparable Cadillac CT4 Sport at \$44.6K. Sure, the Caddy has rear-wheel drive, but the Integra has a stick. Nice.

But look in the rear-view mirror and the vehicles stalking my Integra are mainstream makes like the \$35,390 Mazda3 Turbo and \$39,385 VW Golf GTI — cars that are superior to Integra in performance, on par in tech.

Maybe it was always thus. A

look back at enthusiast magazine Car and Driver's 1992 archives finds Integra taking on seven other pocket rockets like the Eagle Talon TSi and VW Corrado in a comparison review.

"The Integra GS-R is not a hard-edged, seriously sporting car — its suspension is tailored for a forgiving ride, and the chassis delivers just 0.79 g of grip (both of which contributed to the car's seventh-place showing around the race-track)," wrote Car and Driver back then. "But, in typical Honda fashion, it does nearly everything well at a reasonable ... price."

Sounds like our Integra all right. It came in third overall.

I would rate it the same for the 2023 model. Get the hot-looking Integra because it wears better duds than a Civic Si, but it's no hotter looking than the sculpted GTI or gorgeous Mazda3 hatches I've recently driven. Crucially, under the skin, Integra brings the same dynamics as the Civic Si: same 1.5-liter turbo-4, same electronics, same screens.

The Golf GTI and Mazda 3

bring similar value, only better. The Mazda3 boasts an interior on par with a Mercedes, for goodness sake. The Mazda3 also brings standard all-wheel drive (which will woo all-season Michiganians) and a blistering 250 horsepower and 310 pound-feet of torque that will out-drag the Integra to 60 mph by a half-second.

Enter Golf GTI, which goes to the top of the class with a sweet manual, 241 horses from a growly 2.0-liter turbo-4, and moves to match the athletic Integra. Want more? There's the ridiculous, 310-horse, all-wheel-drive Golf R at \$45K.

Which begs the question: Will we get more from Integra?

I'm betting yes — both to compete against the Golf R, as well as up-trim luxury cyborgs like the Audi RS3 and BMW M2 and Mercedes CLA AMG 45. We'll see what else Acura has in its toolbox.

In the meantime, the base Integra is finally back. It may not be at the top of its class, but it's a welcome dose of nostalgia for the Acura club.

NUTS & BOLTS

2023 Acura Integra

- Vehicle type: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive, five-passenger sports sedan
- Price: \$33,895, including \$1,095 destination fee (\$37,395 as tested)
- Powerplant: 1.5-liter turbo-4 cylinder
- Power: 200 horsepower, 192 pound-feet of torque
- Transmission: 6-speed manual or continuously-variable automatic
- Performance: 0-60 mph, 7.0

- seconds (Car and Driver). Top speed, 135 mph
- Weight: 3,062 pounds
- Fuel economy: EPA, 26 mpg city/36 highway/30 combined

Report card

- Highs: Fun-to-drive hatchback; Acura value compared to other premium brands
- Lows: Engine lacks Acura thrills; lacks value compared to other mainstream hot hatches
- Overall: 3 stars

Do I really need wheel locks?

Q: My new car came with wheel locks. I understand why these became popular when fancy wheels were a new thing. Now, nearly every new car has alloy wheels. Since you have to carry the lock key in your car, a wheel thief would have to first ransack the car to find the key. Are these locks really useful anymore? How many wheel thieves are around these days?

—J.B., Plymouth, Minnesota

■■■

A: Wheel and tire theft tops \$1 million dollars a year, according to Geico. And it is not just bad actors who covet your wheels for their own cars. Wheels are easy to steal, usually taking less than 10 minutes. They are easy to sell and

hard to track. Sorry, but I have not been able to get an accurate head count of wheel thieves.

■■■

Q: Some years ago, I remember hearing that it was a good idea to turn off the air conditioning in your car a few blocks before you arrive where you were going. Is that really a thing? And if so, why?

—L.S., Lake St. Croix Beach, Minnesota

A: It really was a thing, but not so much lately. People used to complain of dirty socks odors coming from the A/C vents in the morning. Bacteria were the cause. Microorganisms were growing in the dark, warm, moist environment of the HVAC case. Running only the blower on

high dried out the case.

■■■

Q: I enjoy reading your auto column and thought I would seek your help. I'm currently having an issue with my 2015 Volvo S60. First, when I turn off the ignition, I hear a pinging noise that continues after the engine is off. I use 87 octane gas when I fill up. Do I need to go with a higher grade of gas?

—M.H., Oak Park, Illinois

A: Is the pinging noise coming from under the hood or under the car? If under the car, it's normal contraction of the metal, particularly the exhaust system. If the pinging is coming from the engine compartment, the problem may be run-on. That is a dieseling issue that I haven't seen since

the carburetor days, though.

Q: My wife had her oil changed and they inspected the brakes as part of their service. They measured the remaining life of the front pads at 15% and the rear pads at 5%. She turned down their offer of replacement, but before she left, they made her sign a statement that said: "VEHICLE HAS NO BRAKES - CUSTOMER DECLINED WORK. VEHICLE OWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFE REMOVAL OF CAR FROM LOT." Their statement was all caps. While I admit that 5% brake pad is really low, does it actually warrant this warning, or was this just a scare tactic trying to get her to pay the \$1,100 for new brakes?

—M.H., Winfield, Illinois

A: How did they manage to stop the car when pulling out of the service bay? I would be scared

MOTORMOUTH By BOB WEBER

Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



to deal with this shop again.

■■■

Q: We have a residence in Iowa, but we keep a 2009 Chrysler PT Cruiser in Arizona when wintering there. I "summerize" the car while away with a fuel stabilizer. Is there any particular way to restart the car from a six-month storage? For example,

should I pump the gas pedal, push it and keep it down or something, when turning the key to start?

—G.H., Marion, Iowa

A: You needn't pump the gas pedal or hold it down. When fuel injection did away with the carburetor, it did away with engine starting voodoo. Just turn the key and the engine will start.

Life & Style

Jack Harlow, Nicki Minaj make mark at MTV Video Music

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Rapper Jack Harlow took flight to open the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, while Johnny Depp made a surprise float above the audience as the Moon Man.

Harlow kicked off his performance inside a mock airplane walking down aisle while performing his hit song "First Class," which was sampled by Fergie's "Glamorous." The rapper joined Fergie onstage - wearing a sparkling silver dress with the red words "First Class" - who sang her 2006 jam.

"Thank you to Fergie for coming out with me tonight and clearing this song," said Harlow after "First Class" won the award for song of



Jack Harlow, left, and Lil Nas X accept the award for best collaboration for "Industry Baby" at the MTV Video Music Awards at the Prudential Center on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022, in Newark, N.J.

the summer later in the show. "The beauty of this song is that people don't realize it's so hip-hop because of the sampling. To bring Fergie into the mix in this way means the world to me. It's truly full circle. 'Glamorous' was one of the most important songs of my childhood."

During the show, Depp made a surprise appearance nearly three months after the verdict in his defamation trial with his former wife Amber Heard. The 59-year-old actor floated from the ceiling while wearing the iconic astronaut outfit with his face digitally inserted into custom's helmet.

"And you know what? I needed the work," Depp told the audience at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

Lizzo had Taylor Swift dancing out of her seat while she performed her new single "2 Be Loved (Am I Ready)."

Harlow's name was called to come right back onstage to collect the show's first award for his guest appearance on Lil Nas X's song "Industry Baby," which won for best collaboration. Both Harlow and Lil Nas X are tied for leading nominees with seven apiece.

"This one is for the champions," said Lil Nas X before Harlow thanked him for the collaboration on the chart-topping single. The song propelled their nominations, landing them in competition for artist of the year along with Drake, Bad Bunny, Ed Sheeran, Harry Styles and Lizzo.

Kendrick Lamar entered the show with seven nominations with Harry Styles and Doja Cat closely coming behind

with six nods apiece. Sheeran, Billie Eilish, Drake, Dua Lipa, Taylor Swift and The Weeknd each have five.

Swift accepted the award for best long form video for her "All Too Well: The Short Film." The singer spoke about creating her first short film, giving thanks to several including actors Sadie Sink and Dylan O'Brien who starred in the project.

"We put our entire hearts into this," Swift said.

Styles won album of the year for "Harry's House." He was unable to attend the awards due to his show at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Harlow is pulling double duty, joining LL Cool J and Nicki Minaj as the show's emcees.

Minaj performed a medley of her career's biggest hits from "Roman's Revenge," "Chun-Li," "Moment 4 Life," "Beez in the Trap," "Anaconda" and "Super Bass." After her set, the rapper accepted the show's Video Vanguard award, which MTV has said she's receiving for her artistry, barrier-breaking hip-hop and status as a global superstar. The honor is named after Michael Jackson.

During her acceptance speech, Minaj paid tribute to other music icons such as Jackson, Whitney Houston, Lil Wayne and Kanye West. She spoke about the importance of mental health.

"I wish people took mental health seriously, even when you think they have the perfect lives," said Minaj, who later won best hip-hop for her song "Do We Have a Problem?" featuring Lil Baby.

'The Invitation' tops tepid weekend at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The horror film "The Invitation" needed just \$7 million to finish at the top of the weakest weekend of the summer at the North American box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Directed and co-written by Jessica M. Thompson and starring "Game of Thrones" actor Nathalie Emmanuel, "The Invitation" tells the story of a young woman who after her mother's death discovers dark secrets at her family home in the English countryside.

It debuted on 3,141 screens for Sony and cost just \$10 million to make.

Sony also had the No. 2 movie with the Brad Pitt vehicle "Bullet Train," which brought in an estimated \$5.6



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Brad Pitt, left, and Sandra Bullock in a scene from "Bullet Train."

million from 3,513 screens in its fourth week, bringing its domestic total to \$78.2 million.

Universal's "Beast," starring Idris Elba, finished third with \$4.9 million in its second week, after making \$11.6

million and ranking second in its first.

Elba was also the star of the week's other major debut, "Three Thousand Years of Longing," the fantasy epic from "Mad Max" director

George Miller, which brought in just \$2.9 million on 2,436 screens and finished a distant and disappointing seventh.

The lagging results were no great surprise for this time of year.

"We're in that what is often the typical August slowdown heading into Labor Day weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "This was to be expected given the lineup of films this weekend."

Paramount's "Top Gun: Maverick" remained in fourth in its 14th weekend in theaters with an additional \$4.8 million. It has made over \$691 million in North America to date, making it the sixth-highest grossing domestic release of all time.

Sexual abuse continues to haunt family members

DEAR ABBY: Fifteen years ago, my husband's sister told him their brother "Brad" had molested her when she was young. She had repressed it until revealing it to a therapist. Brad admitted doing it, but said it was because a parish priest showed him pornography. Brad gave her money to pay for her therapy.

My husband has pretty much dismissed it and remains very close to Brad. I have never been able to look at Brad in the same way, and I prefer to not be around him. My husband wants me to pretend it's in the past and let it go, but I'm having trouble doing that. My aversion to Brad has grown more intense over the years. His sister still has issues, and I believe they stem from his abuse. I don't know what to do. Help, please.

COMPLICATED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR COMPLICATED: It is probable that the priest who showed Brad the pornography sexually abused him, too. Brad has tried to make amends by paying for his sister's therapy. (I wonder if he had any himself.) I think you should talk to your sister-in-law about this, and take your cues from her.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have a close friend who was diagnosed with skin cancer. She had surgery a few days ago, and she will know within the next two weeks if it is gone. I am devastated. I don't

know what to do, to say or how to act.

I check in several times a day with her to ask what I can do. We usually talk about everything, but now she's talking about death and dying. My heart is broken and I tear up when I think about it. I'd like to tell her what I'm feeling and how much I think of her but I don't know how.

LOST IN THE EAST

DEAR LOST: If you feel you can't get out what you need to communicate to your friend without breaking down, put it in a letter to her. Take your time writing it, and when you're done, put it aside for a day or two, and then reread it before sending or giving it to her. It couldn't do any harm to let her know how much you love and value her, the things you most admire about her and how important she IS (NOT WAS) in your life. If she lives decades more, which I sincerely hope, that love letter will be a treasured keepsake.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am in my late 60s. When I am approached by people who know me, I can't remember them. It's embarrassing to ask them who they are. I may have worked with them or met them somehow, but although they look familiar, I draw a blank. I have spoken to several friends who have the same problem. I sometimes recognize people I haven't seen for a while and have to remind them who I am. What would

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

be the polite way to ask, "Who are you?"

DON'T KNOW IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DON'T KNOW: A polite way to manage it would be to be honest. Simply say, "Forgive me, but I think I'm having a 'senior moment.' Where do we know each other from?" It's effective, and as you stated, you are NOT the only one. It also happens to people who are younger than you.

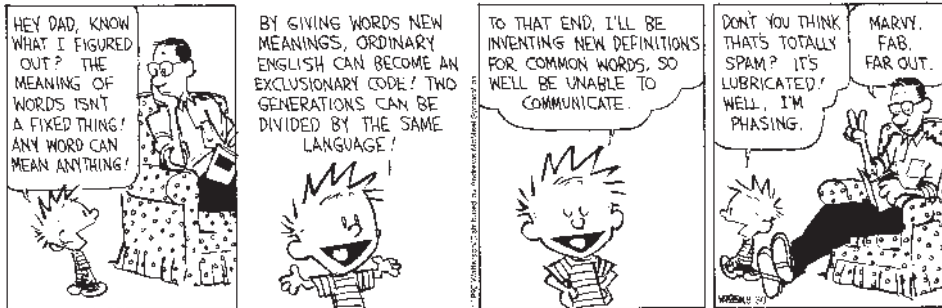
■■■■■

Good advice for everyone - teens to seniors - is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



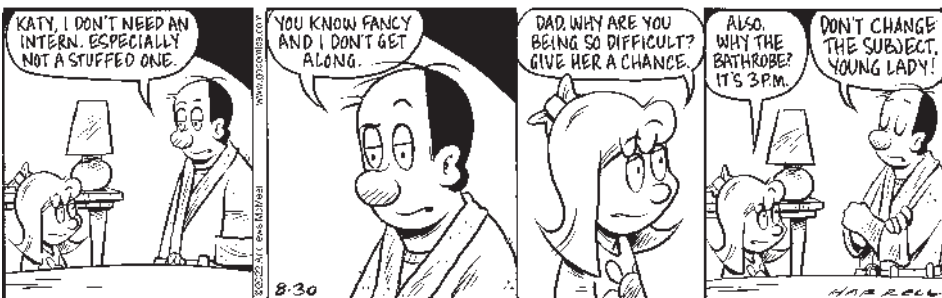
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Swedish car
5 Do sums broadly
8 Gym pads
12 Bruins' sch.
13 Cattle call
14 Modern money
15 Tall, thin person
17 Bickering
18 Sound from a hot wok
19 Small bill
20 Elitists
21 Warm-up run
22 "Top Gun" target
23 Fall flower
26 "Hamilton" or "Rent"
30 Old money of Rome
31 Weir
32 Tiers
33 Not generic
35 Flaxen, as hair
36 Stitch

DOWN

37 Hosp. workers
38 Smiles
41 Bikini half
42 Solidify
45 "The Wire" actor Idris
46 Tilt towards
48 Region (Abbr.)
49 Kreskin's claim
50 Without
51 "Shoo!"
52 Holy Fr. woman
53 Sch. superintenders

2 High cards
3 Regretably
4 Prohibit
5 Surrounded by
6 Hand (out)
7 Anonymous Jane
8 2004 Lindsay Lohan movie
9 Prefix with pilot
10 Chicago paper, for short
11 Lushes
16 Indigent
20 Venus, to Serena
21 "Hacks" actress
22 Silent
23 Cleric's tunic
24 Navy address
25 — la-la
26 Frenzied
27 Bill's partner
28 Bristle
29 Leary's drug
31 Morning moisture
34 —
35 Moines
36 Muffin choice
37 Cover with cloth
38 Wagers
39 Power co. supply
40 "East of Eden" girl
41 Optimum
42 Bitty biter
43 Sicilian spouter
44 Privation
46 French article
47 AOL, for one

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	L	L	I	R	A	O	V	E	R		
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E	L	A	L	U	F	O	E	D	A	M	
C	A	R	O	B	M	A	N				
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W	E	T	S	S	O	L					

Yesterday's answer 8-30

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andy Roddick, 40; Lisa Ling, 49; Cameron Diaz, 50; Michael Chiklis, 59.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on financial opportunities. An aggressive portfolio with a solid endgame will put your mind at ease. Don't let missed opportunities bring you down; learn from the experience and push forward. A steady pace and a disciplined attitude regarding health, wealth and personal gain will bring the results you desire. Live up to your promises and show kindness toward others. Your numbers are 7, 18, 22, 29, 32, 36, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Think outside the box, and you'll devise a plan that will give you the momentum you need to succeed. Personal growth, self-improvement and essential relationships will help you achieve what's important to you. Romance will enhance your love life. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let what others do or say lead you astray. Work toward your goal without jeopardizing your health or reputation. A high-energy approach to work and a sound idea will help you complete things on time and to your satisfaction. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Anger will not solve problems, but setting high standards and doing your best will outmaneuver any competition you meet along the way. Use your expertise to help others, and you'll gain respect and feel good about your accomplishments. Put your best foot forward. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't stress over what's happening around you when what's important is to live up to your prom-

ises and finish what you start. Work alone if it will keep others from slowing you down. Choose to live within your means. 2***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stick to the basics and keep life simple. Focus on what and who interests you, pitch in and do your part. A positive attitude will help you finish what you start and establish what you want to do moving forward. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your money into something that will help you advance or protect your long-term goal. Concentrate on work and gain stability. Refuse to let changes disrupt your plans or cause you to make a move you regret. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Trust yourself, not what others say or do, to get things done differently. An opportunity will sprout if you pursue information, knowledge, skills and comfort in following a path that inspires passion and desire to make a difference. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Leave nothing to chance. Be original and open to suggestions, but when making a final decision, let your intuition lead the way and your heart push you in a direction that feels right. Having a purpose will raise your desire to succeed. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Nothing is forever, but if ideas are thought out and applied with expertise, good things will transpire. Don't be fooled by someone who challenges you or tries to change your schedule. Embrace personal gain and self-improvement wholeheartedly. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change will help you excel. Time is on your side, and putting everything in its place is all you need to remember if you want to reach your destination. Keep your emotions under control and remain true to your beliefs. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let anyone slow you down. Don't let the changes around you diminish your plans or the outcome you are trying to achieve. A steady pace forward will encourage talks that support long-term solutions. Romance is featured. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't get angry or believe everything you hear. Expect to be inundated with information that can lead you astray or cost you emotionally, physically or financially. Trust what's obvious and can be verified, and go about your business. ***
Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, energetic and generous. You are independent and unique.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	1		9				3		7
9		5					8		
	8			6					4
7				8					
		3	1		5	2			
				7					3
8				3				5	
	6					7			1
2	7			4		6			

Difficulty Level ★★

8/30

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	2	9	6	5	7	4	8	3
8	7	4	1	3	9	5	6	2
5	3	6	4	8	2	1	9	7
3	5	8	9	4	1	7	2	6
7	4	1	2	6	3	9	5	8
6	9	2	8	7	5	3	4	1
4	8	3	7	9	6	2	1	5
2	6	5	3	1	4	8	7	9
9	1	7	5	2	8	6	3	4

King Features

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DIFFERENT GAMES & PUZZLES

Solution: 9 letters

S D D R O W R E D N O W C N B
M T I R R E T T A P C I G O L
S E I F B U P I C T U R E I O
S E C M F O K C A M I N D T C
O G U H U I O O N D S S L U K
R N S C A L C U D O K U C L U
C E W I U N A U Y U D O H O
I L T M R H A I T L A S D I S O
P L N O S T R C E T Y A L P K
U A R U O S E M A G Y O D A U
Z H R E K H A T N L W L R T C
Z C D I W A S G I J O M E H H
L L B M A S Y U A P R I N T E
E U E N I L N O R I D D L E S
R E L B O B U B A B S L L I K S

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8/30

Adult, Answer, Blockudoku, Brain, Bubble, Calcudoku, Candy, Challenge, Chess, Children, Clue, Column, Crush, Difficulty, Easy, Emoji, Games, Grid, Jigsaw, Load, Logic, Masyu, Mechanical, Mind, Number, Online, Path, Patter, Picross, Picture, Play, Print, Puzzle, Riddles, Rubik's, Shooter, Skills, Slow, Solution, Stimulate, Sudoku, Tetris, Wanderword

Yesterday's Answer: Disposing

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 69, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Ohtani, Trout homer as Angels beat Blue Jays 8-3



TORONTO (AP)—
Shohei

Ohtani and Mike Trout homered, and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Toronto Blue Jays 8-3 on Sunday to complete a three-game sweep.

Ohtani had three hits and scored twice one day after he pitched seven crisp innings in a 2-0 victory. Trout went 2 for 5 with two RBIs and also scored twice.

Ohtani's two-run drive made it 6-1 in the seventh, and Trout added a solo shot in the ninth. It was the 28th homer for each slugger.

Luis Rengifo and Kurt Suzuki also connected for the Angels, who had lost six straight and nine of 10 before facing the Blue Jays. Andrew Wantz (2-0) got the win.

George Springer hit his 19th homer for Toronto. Ross Stripling (6-4) allowed three runs and seven hits in six innings.



AP

Los Angeles Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani (17) hits a two-run home run during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays, in Toronto, Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022.

Astros 3, Orioles 1

In Houston, Astros ace Justin Verlander pitched three scoreless innings before departing because of right calf discomfort.

Alex Bregman homered for AL West-leading Houston, and Yuli Gurriel had a two-run single. The Astros dropped the first two games of the weekend set after winning four in a row.

It was the shortest outing of the season for Verlander, one of the front-runners for the AL Cy Young Award. Manager Dusty Baker said Verlander was going in for imaging on Monday.

Houston's bullpen then allowed one run and four hits over six innings. Ryne Stanek (2-1) tossed a perfect seventh for the win, and Rafael Montero worked a rocky ninth for his ninth save.

Orioles starter Austin Voth (4-2) allowed one run and one hit in six-plus innings.

Cardinals 6, Braves 3

In St. Louis, Tyler O'Neill hit a three-run homer to break an eighth-inning tie and St. Louis rallied past Atlanta.

Tommy Edman pulled the Cardinals even with a leadoff homer in the eighth against A.J. Minter (5-4), who also gave up O'Neill's two-out drive to center field. Lars Nootbaar went deep with two outs in the sixth for the first hit off Braves starter Jake Odorizzi.

The Cardinals, who have won 12 of 15, stayed six games in front of second-place Milwaukee in the NL Central.

Atlanta remained three games behind the first-place Mets in the NL East.

Dansby Swanson put Atlanta ahead 3-2 with a three-run homer off reliever Ryan Helsley (9-1) in the seventh. But the Braves lost two of three in St. Louis after winning their previous five series.

Giovanni Gallegos earned his 13th save.

Mariners 4, Guardians 0

In Seattle, Robbie Ray tossed seven dominant innings for Seattle, and Dylan Moore and Ty France homered.

Seattle took three of four from Cleveland in a potential postseason preview. All four games were tight and well-pitched, and the Mariners squeezed out just enough offense to earn a series victory.

The Guardians' lead in the AL Central was trimmed to two games over Minnesota.

Ray (11-8), last year's AL Cy Young Award winner with Toronto, scattered three hits, struck out seven and walked none.

Cleveland was blanked for the eighth time this season, while Seattle posted its seventh shutout.

Guardians starter Aaron Civale (2-6) allowed four runs in 6 1/3 innings.

Athletics 4, Yankees 1

In Oakland, Calif., minor league call-up Adrián Martínez held New York hitless into the fifth inning and the Athletics shut down the powerful Yankees for a second straight game.

One night after the vaunted Yankees lineup managed one hit in 11 innings against

Adam Oller and the Oakland bullpen, New York wasn't much better against another starter who entered the game with an ERA above 6.00.

Martínez (3-3), called up from Triple-A before the game, was charged with one run and three hits in 5 1/3 innings. A.J. Puk got three outs for his fourth save.

New York's Clarke Schmidt (5-3) was charged with four runs in 4 1/3 innings in his second start of the season.

Royals 15, Padres 7

In Kansas City, Mo., Michael A. Taylor homered and drove in four runs, sending the Royals to the victory.

Salvador Perez also went deep for Kansas City, and Hunter Dozier had four of the Royals' 18 hits. Nick Pratto drove in three runs, including a two-run double off Josh Hader during a six-run eighth.

Kansas City had dropped the first two games of the series and 11 of 15 overall. Jonathan Heasley (2-7) got his first win since June 10.

Manny Machado homered twice and drove in four runs for San Diego, which had won four of six. Juan Soto also connected for his third homer with the Padres.

San Diego's Sean Manaea (7-7) was tagged for six runs and 10 hits in four innings.

Rockies 1, Mets 0

In New York, Germán Márquez outpitched Max Scherzer, allowing one hit over seven innings and denying the New York Mets' ace his 200th career win.

Brian Serven's sacrifice

fly off Scherzer in the seventh gave the Rockies their second 1-0 win over the Mets. The other one came in August 2012.

Colorado avoided a four-game sweep by the NL East leaders.

Márquez (7-10) struck out five and walked two, improving to 2-1 with a 1.42 ERA in three road starts against the Mets.

Scherzer (9-4) gave up four hits and racked up 11 strikeouts over seven innings in his 110th double-digit strikeout game.

Daniel Bard worked the ninth for his 27th save, finishing a three-hitter.

Rays 12, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Isaac Paredes homered over the Green Monster in each of his first two at-bats, and Tampa Bay avoided a three-game sweep.

Randy Arozarena hit three doubles off the left-field wall at Fenway Park and drove in two runs. David Peralta had three hits for the Rays, who came to town on a six-game winning streak before losing two straight.

J.D. Martínez, Tommy Pham and Franchy Cordero homered for the Red Sox. Nick Pivetta (9-10) allowed five runs in five innings.

Corey Kluber (9-7) went six innings for the victory, allowing three runs and eight hits.

Pirates 5, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Oneil Cruz, Tucupita Marcano and Bryan Reynolds all tripled and scored, and Pittsburgh's Roansy Contreras struck out

seven over five innings.

The Pirates stopped a seven-game slide and snapped the Phillies' six-game winning streak.

The Pirates became the second team this season to hit three triples in a game. It was the first time they had accomplished that feat since May 25, 2018.

Philadelphia right-hander Noah Syndergaard (8-9) was charged with five runs and nine hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Contreras (4-4) allowed three hits and walked two in his first win since July 7.

Dodgers 8, Marlins 1

In Miami, Mookie Betts homered for the third straight game, powering the Dodgers to the victory.

Justin Turner and Max Muncy had three hits apiece for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who are 28-8 since the All-Star break. Julio Urias (14-7) pitched six innings of one-run ball.

Betts hit a leadoff drive in the first for his 31st homer.

Brian Anderson hit his sixth homer for Miami. Edward Cabrera (4-2) allowed six runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Tigers 9, Rangers 8

In Arlington, Texas, Adolis García struck out during a Texas rally that fell short in the ninth inning, ending his 23-game hitting streak.

García's streak was the longest in the American League this season. He went 0 for 3 with two walks and fell one game short of matching the longest hitting string ever by a Cuban-born big leaguer, set by Rafael Palmeiro in 1994 for Baltimore.

Harold Castro drove in five runs and Jeimer Candelario homered for the second straight day as the Tigers built a 9-0 lead in the sixth inning. Drew Hutchison (2-7) got the win, and Joe Jiménez earned his second save.

Corey Seager homered twice for Texas. Kohei Arihara (1-2) was charged with the loss.

Twins 8, Giants 3

In Minneapolis, Jake Cave homered and drove in four runs, and the Twins beat the Giants to finish a three-game sweep.

Cave gave the Twins a 3-2 lead with his second homer of the season in the fourth inning. He added a two-run double in the fifth.

The Twins have won three straight following a six-game losing streak that knocked them out of first place in the AL Central.

Devin Smeltzer (5-2) earned his first win since June 23.

Brandon Crawford singled three times and drove in a run for the Giants, who have dropped eight of 10. Jakob Junis (4-4) got the loss.

Diamondbacks 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Jake McCarthy hit a tiebreaking double in the ninth inning, and the Diamondbacks completed a three-game sweep of the struggling White Sox.

Stone Garrett launched his first major league home run and Sergio Alcántara also went deep for Arizona, which earned its first inter-league sweep since 2019. Noé Ramírez (5-4) pitched a scoreless eighth and Ian Kennedy got three outs for his ninth save.

Kendall Graveman (3-3) took the loss in relief of Dylan Cease, who allowed Arizona's two solo homers while striking out eight in a career-high eight innings.

The White Sox, who allowed 17 runs in the first two games of the series, have lost nine of 11.

Brewers 9, Cubs 7

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich and Kolten Wong each homered for the second straight game, leading Milwaukee to the victory.

Garrett Mitchell, one of the Brewers' top prospects, drove in two runs with his first hit as a major leaguer. Eric Lauer (10-5) worked five innings for the win, and Devin Williams got three outs for his ninth save.

Nico Hoerner and Franmil Reyes homered for Chicago. Hoerner finished with three hits and three RBIs.

Sean Newcomb (2-1) was charged with the loss.

Nationals 3, Reds 2

In Washington, major league losses leader Patrick Corbin ended Washington's record 43-game drought without a starting pitcher earning a victory.

Corbin (5-17) allowed one earned run and four hits in six innings. A Washington starting pitcher had not earned a victory since Josiah Gray won at Philadelphia on July 6, shattering the previous big league record of 35 games set by the 1949 Washington Senators.

Stuart Fairchild homered for Cincinnati, which was trying for a weekend sweep. Nick Lodolo (3-5) permitted three runs and five hits in seven innings.

Ildemaro Vargas hit a tie-breaking solo homer for the Nationals in the fifth. Kyle Finnegan handled the ninth for his eighth save in 12 opportunities.

Mickey Mantle card breaks record, as sports memorabilia soar

NEW YORK (AP)—A mint condition Mickey Mantle baseball card sold for \$12.6 million Sunday, blasting into the record books as the most ever paid for sports memorabilia in a market that has grown exponentially more lucrative in recent years.

The rare Mantle card eclipsed the record just posted a few months ago — \$9.3 million for the jersey worn by Diego Maradona when he scored the contentious “Hand of God” goal in soccer’s 1986 World Cup.

It easily surpassed the \$7.25 million for a century-old Honus Wagner baseball card recently sold in a private sale.

And just last month, the heavyweight boxing belt reclaimed by Muhammad Ali during 1974’s “Rumble in the Jungle” sold for nearly \$6.2 million.

All are part of a booming market for sports collectibles.

Prices have risen not just for the rarest items, but also for pieces that might have been collecting dust in garages and attics. Many of those items make it onto consumer auction sites like eBay, while others are put up for bidding by auction houses.

Because of its near-perfect condition and its legendary

subject, the Mantle card was destined to be a top seller, said Chris Ivy, the director of sports auctions at Heritage Auctions, which ran the bidding.

Some saw collectibles as a hedge against inflation over the past couple years, he said, while others rekindled childhood passions.

Ivy said savvy investors saw inflation coming down the road — as it has. As a result, sports memorabilia became an alternative to traditional Wall Street investments or real estate — particularly among members of Generation X and older millennials.

“There’s only so much Netflix and ‘Tiger King’ people could watch (during the pandemic). So, you know, they were getting back into hobbies, and clearly sports collecting was a part of that,” said Ivy, who noted an uptick in calls among potential sellers.

Add to that interest from wealthy overseas collectors and you have a confluence of factors that made sports collectibles especially attractive, Ivy said.

“We’ve kind of started seeing some growth and some rise in the prices that led to some media coverage. And I think it all it all just kind of built upon itself,” he said. “I



A Mickey Mantle baseball card is displayed at Heritage Auctions in Dallas, on July 21, 2022.

AP

would say the beginning of the pandemic really added gasoline to that fire.”

Before the pandemic, the sports memorabilia market was estimated at more than \$5.4 billion, according to a

2018 Forbes interview with David Yoken, the founder of Collectable.com.

By 2021, that market had grown to \$26 billion, according to the research firm Market Decipher, which pre-

dicts the market will grow astronomically to \$227 billion within a decade — partly fueled by the rise of so-called NFTs, or non-fungible tokens, which are digital collectibles with unique data-encrypted

fingerprints.

Sports cards have been especially in demand, as people spent more time at home and an opportunity arose to rummage through potential treasure troves of childhood memories, including old comic books and small stacks of bubble gum cards featuring marquee sports stars.

That lure of making money on something that might be sitting in one’s childhood basement has been irresistible, according to Stephen Fishler, founder of ComicConnect, who has watched the growing rise — and profitability — of collectibles being traded across auction houses.

“In a nutshell, the world of modern sports cards has been going bonkers,” he said.

The Mantle baseball card dates from 1952 and is widely regarded as one of just a handful of the baseball legend in near-perfect condition.

The auction netted a handsome profit for Anthony Giordano, a New Jersey waste management entrepreneur who bought it for \$50,000 at a New York City show in 1991.

“As soon as it hit 10 million I just turned in. I couldn’t keep my eyes open anymore,” Giordano, 75, said Sunday morning. His sons monitored the auction for him. “They stayed up and called me this morning bright and early to tell me that it reached where it reached.”

The card was one of dozens of sports collectibles up for auction. In all, the items raked in some \$28 million, according to Derek Grady, the executive vice president of sports auctions for Heritage Auctions.

“Sports collectibles are finally getting their due as an investment,” Grady said. “The best sports items are now starting to rival artwork, rare coins and rare artifacts as a great investment vehicle.”

The switch-hitting Mantle was a Triple Crown winner in 1956, a three-time American League MVP and a seven-time World Series champion. The Hall of Famer died in 1995.

“Some people might say it’s just a baseball card. Who cares? It’s just a Picasso. It’s just a Rembrandt to other people. It’s a thing of art for some people,” said John Holden, a professor in sports management law at Oklahoma State and amateur sports card collector.

Like pieces of art that have no intrinsic value, he said, when it comes to sports cards, the worth is in the eye of the beholder — or the pocketbook of the potential bidder.

“The value,” Holden said, “is whatever the market’s willing to support.”

Bills release punter Matt Araiza after gang rape allegation



ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.

(AP)—A major public backlash coupled with the graphic details contained in a lawsuit alleging Matt Araiza’s involvement in a gang rape of a teenager last fall, left Buffalo Bills general manager Brandon Beane little choice but to release the team’s rookie punter on Saturday.

The decision to cut ties with the 22-year-old represents a major reversal for the Bills, coming two days after they backed the player based on the findings of what the team called its “thorough examination” of the allegations filed in the lawsuit.

And it comes less than a week after the Bills — while aware he was the target of a police investigation — cleared the way for Araiza to take over the punting duties by cutting returning veteran Matt Haack on Monday.

“The last 48 hours have been very difficult for a lot of people. It’s been tough. And we sympathize with this whole situation, all the parties involved, this young woman, what she went through,” Beane said during a 26-minute news conference, while seated alongside coach Sean McDermott.

“But at this time, we just think it’s the best move for everyone to move on from Matt and let him take care of this situation and focus on that. So, we’re gonna part ways there,” Beane added.

Beane said the Bills were not aware of the allegations made against Araiza at the time they selected him in the sixth round of the draft in April. And had they known, he said, they would have removed him from consideration.

Araiza’s release begins to ease a crisis which has shaken the two-time AFC East champions. McDermott was visibly upset while discussing the situation following a 21-0 preseason loss at Carolina on Friday night.

“I’m hurt,” McDermott said. “It’s not easy to hear about some of the things that I’ve heard about over the last several hours say. Haven’t slept a lot to be honest with you.”

The Bills began distancing themselves from Araiza as early as Friday, when he was held out from playing. He instead watched the game from an undisclosed location in the stadium rather than from the sideline along with his teammates.

On Saturday, Araiza was not present for practice even though the Bills said he was

on his roster, while at the same time his No. 19 jersey was no longer available for sale on the Bills’ online store after being listed earlier in the day.

Araiza’s only comment since the lawsuit was filed came in a statement released by his agent during the game Friday.

“The facts of the incident are not what they are portrayed in the lawsuit or in the press. I look forward to quickly setting the record straight,” Araiza said.

In a text to The Associated Press, Araiza’s lawyer, Kerry Armstrong, defended his client by writing: “I am sure he is very upset and disappointed that his career with the Bills ended not because he played poorly, but because of false allegations leveled against him by a young lady and her attorney. I hope he is back in the NFL soon.”

The victim’s lawyer Dan Gilleon issued his own statement by saying the Bills ignored concerns he raised about Araiza when contacting the team in late July.

“The Buffalo Bills had no choice but to cut their young punter after so badly botching their response to our claim,” Gilleon said. “They ignored us, (when) I warned them would happen could be

avoided if they just kept their heads in the sand. This is what enablers do.”

Beane said the team did as much as it could in getting as many details as possible, while noting many of the allegations were unavailable because the results of the San Diego police investigation has not been released. He said the team decided not to “rush to judgment” based on the information it had, while noting Araiza never changed his version of what happened.

“You want to give everyone as much due process as you can. Again, we’re not a judge and a jury,” Beane said.

The lawsuit filed in San Diego County Superior Court accused Araiza and two San Diego State teammates of raping a then-17-year-old girl at a Halloween party at an off-campus home where Araiza had been living.

The results of the police investigation are in the hands of the district attorney, though there is no timeline as to when a decision will be made on whether or not to press charges.

Executives from two different teams told The Associated Press they became aware of Araiza’s involvement in an incident during the draft process, but neither person knew the extent of the allega-

tions. Executives from three other teams said they had no knowledge of the allegations against Araiza before the draft and only learned of the incident Thursday. All the people spoke to The AP on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Beane said it was unclear who — Araiza or the victim’s lawyer, Gilleon — first informed the team of the allegations. As for the decision to not contact Gilleon for more information, Beane said the team’s attorney, Kathryn D’Angelo, “had heard what he had to say, and that’s when we began our process.”

Beane said Araiza’s version of what happened never changed.

“We’re not perfect. But I can tell you, we just tried to do what was right,” Beane said. “In our heart of hearts, I can lay my head down at night knowing that I’ve tried to do what’s right.”

The Bills also informed the NFL of the incident once they were made aware of it, a person familiar with the situation told The AP. The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the matter, wasn’t certain of the timeline.

The NFL declined to comment except to say it was aware of the matter.

By LEIGH GASES

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CORRESPONDENT

The Lady Eagles flew above the erstwhile undefeated Queens of Diamonds 17-1, via mercy-run rule in the fourth inning during the women's division game of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

The Queens of Diamonds have fallen like a deck of cards for their first loss since the start of the league, snapping their five-game winning streak.

With this win, the Lady Eagles are at 3-3 and the Queens of Diamonds are now 5-1.

The battle-ready Lady Eagles brought their A game against the royal powerhouse that is the Queens of Diamonds and put up 10 runs against them in just the second inning.

The Queens were unfortunately unable to retaliate as they only put up one run in the first inning courtesy of Rachel Salalila.

The Lady Eagles put up five more runs in the third inning to widen the lead, 15-1, with the Queens looking at the loss of their winning streak just around the corner.

Allana Sumang brought

Lady Eagles soar above Queens of Diamonds



LEIGH GASES

A Lady Eagles batter swings at a pitch by Queens of Diamonds pitcher last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field during the women's division game, with the Lady Eagles victorious over the Queens of Diamonds, 17-1.

in the most RBIs for the Lady Eagles with three in the game. Additionally, Clare Mabel and Jay Arriola came up with two RBIs a piece.

The Queens' lineup was shut down by the Lady Eagles' pitcher, handing them six strikeouts and only five hits.

It was all over for the Queens in the fourth inning when they came up empty after the Lady Eagles were able to put up two more runs to secure the win, 17-1.

Results of the men's division games will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

HANMI golf tournament early bird deadline on Sept. 3

This Saturday, Sept. 3, at 5pm is the last chance to avail of the early bird registration rates for the 20th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Sept. 17, 2022, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

Registration is \$120 through the early bird deadline and \$140 after. Registration forms are available at www.saipanhotels.org, www.facebook.com/HANMI670, and at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort and Coral Ocean Resort. The early bird tournament fee is \$120 and includes green fee and the awards luncheon. For an additional \$30 players may also compete for optional play prizes, including longest drive (male and female), accurate drive, aggressive



drive, and four chances for nearest to the pin. The tournament is open to the first 144 paid registrants.

"The HANMI golf tournament often fills up by our early bird deadline, so we encourage players to register as soon to guarantee their slot," said HANMI golf tournament committee chair Juko Ishikawa. "Thanks to our generous sponsors, we have some great prizes available on the course and at the banquet, so please join sign up and us for a great day of golf!"

Hole-in-one prizes include a 2022 Toyota Tacoma TRD Sport from Atkins Kroll (Saipan), a 2022 Hyundai Kona from Triple J Motors, a 2022 Nissan Kicks from Joeten Motors, \$20,000 cash from Bank of Saipan, and

\$5,000 from Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc.

The HANMI board has selected Northern Marianas Technical Institute as this year's primary beneficiary of the tournament.

"The committee would really like to thank the volunteers of Northern Marianas Technical Institute, Marianas Tourism Education Council, and Empty Vessel Ministries Foundation who will be assisting with this year's tournament," said Ishikawa. "As many hotels are still trying to serve our visitors with limited staffing, the support of these volunteers to make this year's tournament a success is much appreciated."

Showtime on tournament day is 6am and the tournament will start at 7am. The awards banquet will immedi-

ately follow the tournament at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

For more information,

contact tournament chair Juko Ishikawa at worldresort@pticom.com or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chong's Corp. president Joanna Pai, third left, presents a \$500 check on Aug. 22, 2022, at Chong's Corp. office in Gualo Rai, Saipan, as a VIP sponsor of the 20th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament. From left, Sales representative Rosal Nicdao, golf tournament committee member Max Concepcion, Pai, golf tournament committee vice chair Neil Metran, project manager Honesto Servida, accountant Camille Samonte, and golf tournament committee member Catherine Perry.

TEAM

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year's Mafuti Derby again but that "there's not much expectations. We just participate and hope to win... That's all. [It's] anybody's game. The fish doesn't choose who to win—it's a sport of luck. Fishing to me is 50% knowl-

edge. You have to know how, 30% equipment, and 20% luck. Without all three, you can't catch fish."

Moses thanked ISLA, saying that the derby is a "good community program and you can take children out. The ISLA committee has done an outstanding job and had a lot of volunteers to do a successful Mafuti Derby."

Jose and Ruri Foundation, which was named after her parents Jose and Marcia "Ruri" Ayuyu. Glenn stated that the foundation was created in celebration and honor of her parents legacy, with a mission to "continue to nurture our community and fund different events and non-profit organizations that continue to do a scale of good." Glenn also said that the

Jose and Ruri Foundation will be a 501 C3 Nonprofit organization and was created a year ago.

"We are really excited to launch this foundation and to be a part of the golf classic," she said.

Ayuyu also expressed a heartfelt thank you to all the sponsors and members of the community that made the event possible.

FERRER

From Page 20

give me. And I'd also like to thank team C&R for the support!" added Ferrer.

Ferrer has participated in Lions Club races, Pika Festival, the 100K Tour de Tinian, and her greatest achievement, the Hell of the Marianas.

In the 2019 Hell of the Marianas, a then 14-year-old Ferrer topped the 100-kilometer race in 4:16:20, reaching the start/finish line at the former Mariana Resort & Spa 8 seconds ahead of 30

to 39 age group women's champion Robyn Spaeth (4:16:28).

Tan Holdings executives joined in on the Saturday fun as well and raced in the E-Bike category. President and CEO Jerry Tan came out in first place, followed by vice president of Corporate Business Development Alex Sablan.

In the women's division, Merlie Tolentino, Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director, came in first, followed by Melanie Santos in second place, and Christy Villaflor in third place.

like a luxury vehicle from Atkins Kroll and Triple J Motors. Babauta hinted that Atkins Kroll is going to give a Lexus.

Jose Ayuyu Jr. encourages all golfers to come out and play and Babauta stated that they are expecting several players from Guam, Tinian, and Rota to join the regulars from Saipan. Ayuyu and Babauta said the tournament is expected to be filled to the

MCDO

From Page 20

after Nov. 2, it will go up to \$140.

The Top 3 winners from the championship flight to seniors will be rewarded with cash prizes and the individual who succeeds in hitting a hole-in-one in the designated holes will be up for big ticket items

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	78	50	.609	
Tampa Bay	70	57	.551 7½	
Toronto	68	58	.540 9	
Baltimore	67	60	.528 10½	
Boston	62	66	.484 16	

Central Division

Cleveland	67	59	.532	
Minnesota	65	61	.516 2	
Chicago	63	65	.492 5	
Kansas City	52	77	.403 16½	
Detroit	50	78	.391 18	

West Division

Houston	82	47	.636	
Seattle	70	58	.547 11½	
Texas	58	69	.457 23	
Los Angeles	55	73	.430 26½	
Oakland	48	81	.372 34	

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

New York	82	47	.636	
Atlanta	79	50	.612 3	
Philadelphia	72	56	.563 9½	
Miami	55	72	.433 26	
Washington	43	85	.336 38½	

Central Division

St. Louis	74	54	.578	
Milwaukee	67	59	.532 6	
Chicago	55	73	.430 19	
Cincinnati	50	76	.397 23	
Pittsburgh	48	79	.378 25½	

West Division

Los Angeles	88	38	.698	
San Diego	70	59	.543 19½	
San Francisco	61	65	.484 27	
Arizona	59	67	.468 29	
Colorado	55	74	.426 34½	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ohtani, Trout
homer as Angels
beat Blue Jays 8-3

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Lady Eagles soar
above Queens of
Diamonds

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20 TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ferrer tops women's Tan Holdings Bike Race

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A 16-year-old student-athlete from Marianas High School blazed through the roads and conquered the competition during the Tan Holdings 50th Anniversary Road/ MTB Bike Race last Saturday at Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

50KM @ 50TH
TAN HOLDINGS ANNIVERSARY
BIKE RACE
MTB/ROAD

With over 100 participants from beginners to seasoned competitors, J.C. Ferrer sped through the 50-km long course from Banzai Cliff to Seafix in Tanapag, then back to Banzai Cliff again with a time of just 1:27:11.

Kimiko McKagan came in second place with a time of 1:30:18 and Jay Ann Felipe came in third place with a time of 1:30:19.

At just 16 years old, Ferrer was introduced to the sport at the young age of 3 years old by her father, Bob, when he took off the training wheels from her bicycle. "My father then bought me a bike a few years later when I was around 11 years old just to have cross training for tennis. A year [later] I decided

to quit tennis and fully focus on cycling."

She told *Saipan Tribune* that during last Saturday's race, she "felt very enthusiastic and very nervous about the race. When the race began I was over thinking quite a lot knowing I haven't raced in almost a year. I wasn't expecting to win afterwards because I hadn't been training as much as I usually do. My father had said to try my best, I was beyond happy when I finished the race!"

"My father has been my coach since I was little. He's been my coach for multiple sports. I'd like to say my family is my greatest inspiration, they've inspired me and motivated me in many ways, I'd like to thank them for it. I'd like to thank my mom and brother for the everlasting support and joy they

See FERRER on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
J.C. Ferrer, right,
poses with third
placer Jay Ann
Felipe at the podium
after ruling the Tan
Holdings 50th
Anniversary Road/
MTB Bike Race last
Saturday at Banzai
Cliff in Marpi.

Team RJ clinches top spot of Mafuti Derby



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
RJ Rasiang of Team RJ holds his winning 5.2-lb mafuti during the 4th Annual Mafuti Derby organized by ISLA last Saturday in the waters of the Saipan Lagoon.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

After an exciting and sun-soaked weekend outing off the waters of the Saipan Lagoon, Team RJ conquered the top spot with the single biggest catch of a 5.2-lb mafuti in last Saturday's 4th Annual Mafuti Derby organized by ISLA or The I Sanhalom Laguna Anglers Association.

Team RJ was captained by George Moses, manager of Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center. He was joined in the boat by his wife Candelaria and grandson and young fisherman, RJ, or Reyong John Moses Rasiang, who their team is named after.

In second place of the biggest catch category was dethroned three-time champion Edward Diaz and crew of the

Nibbler who came up with a 4.25-lb mafuti. Third place was Martin Camacho and crew of Chaw Me Naw with a 2.8-lb haul.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Moses credits his 8-year-old young fisherman and grandson, RJ, a student of Oleai Elementary School, for their "luck" in winning this year's derby. Moses said that their crew has joined every

Mafuti Derby thus far and has always been behind the "master" fisherman Edward Diaz and his crew. However, for this year, his grandson "got lucky" and he and his family are "very proud of him."

RJ was taught how to fish at the young age of 3 years old and now has 4 years of experience with fishing. Moses said they will be joining next

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McDonald's upcoming golf classic to benefit new foundation

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Honoring family and the legacy of McDonald's Guam and Saipan president and CEO Jose Ayuyu Sr., the 2nd Annual McDonald's Golf Classic in December will be held to benefit the Jose and Ruri Ayuyu Foundation,

as announced last Friday at the McDonald's location in Gualo Rai.

During a press conference with McDonald's owner/operator Jose Ayuyu Jr., executive assistant to the president Natalie Mable Ayuyu-Glenn, and golf charity tournament chair Ben Babauta, McDonald's officially announced

the start of registration for the 2nd Annual McDonald's Golf Classic. The tournament is set for Dec. 3, 2022 at the Laolao Golf & Resort east course, but registration starts on Sept. 5, 2022 and will continue until Nov. 3, 2022. Early Registration will be at \$130 per player and

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McDonald's Guam and Saipan owner/operator Jose Ayuyu Jr., executive assistant to the president Natalie Mable Ayuyu-Glenn, and golf charity tournament chair Ben Babauta poses with sponsors of the upcoming 2nd Annual McDonald's Golf Classic at the fast-food giant's flagship Gualo Rai location.

DONNA RIVERA